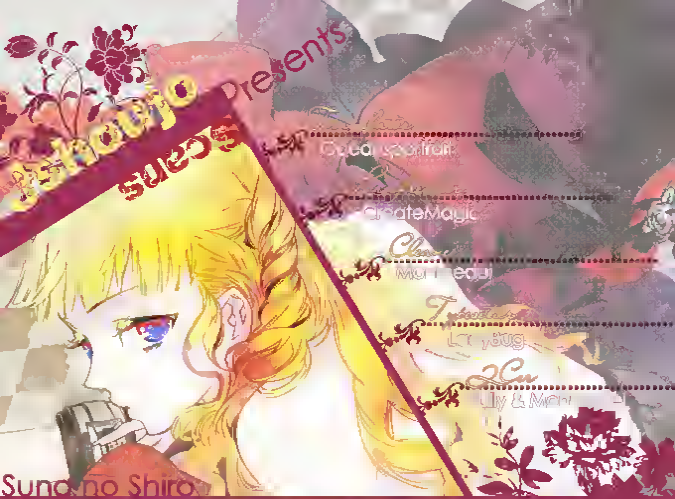
Shoujo
Presents
Cyclea's Girlfriend
Create Magic
Class
Mon Frequi
Interlude
Lady Bug
2Gether
Lily & Mon
Sunohno Shiro

● 一条ゆかり

1月19日生まれの乙女座
3人姉妹43年3月誕生
「砂のセレナーデ」デビュー　以降、数々のまんがやエッセイを発表し、熱烈な読者を獲得している
大の自「アサイラー　砂の城」石岡倶楽部

カバーデザイン　石川雅代

砂の城 4

一条ゆかり

La vie est un éternel château de sable sans cesse battu par les flots.

Conte de Maupassant

集英社文庫

砂の城 4

一条ゆかり

集英社文庫

34
4

◆501

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本体581円

あとがき…一条ゆかり

成長したフランシスは、自分の出生のナゾ
しか愛することができないまっすぐな
で…そんなオスカルが傷ついてしまう
ことは一緒に苦しみはじめる。
むかし、絶対したミルフィーユの悪い
ない行動で…ひとりは別々に暮らすことに
。ナタ…一の方は大変な活躍ぶりのたった。

集英社文庫〈コミック版〉
——既刊大好評発売中——

一条ゆかり◆砂の城 全4巻
こいきな奴ら 全2巻
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ときめきのシルバー・スター
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やさしい手を、もってる
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②こさあじゅ
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もりたじゅん名作集◆①うみどり
②幽呼花の新小岩3丁目
いくえみ綾コレクション◆①エンゲージ
②以心伝心のお月さん

Suna no Shiro

4

Ichijou Yukari

Suna no Shiro

4

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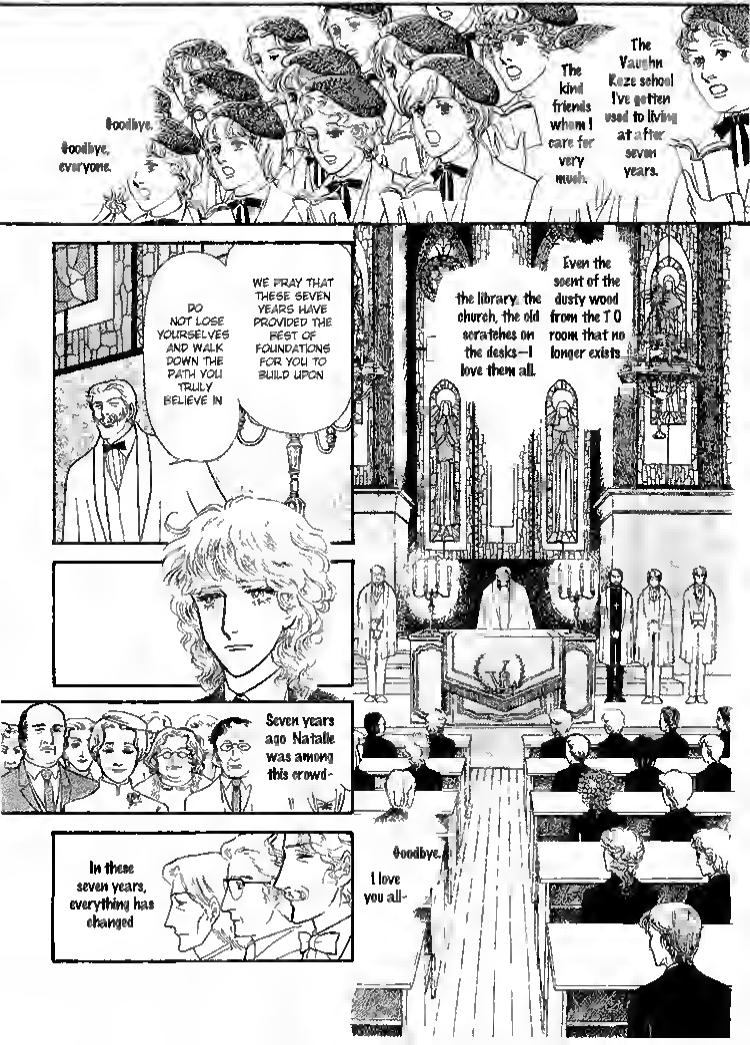
LE CHÂTEAU DE SABLE

Ichijou Yukari

clumsy
WHEN YOU THINK HOW TOMORROW'S GOING TO BE THE LAST DAY IT MAKES IT TOUGH TO LEAVE BEHIND EVEN THESE HARD BEDS
I WONDER WHO'LL BE USING THESE NEXT?
WE DID SPEND SEVEN YEARS HERE, AFTER ALL
YOU'RE RIGHT
sigh
IT REALLY BRINGS OUT THE LOVE FOR MY SCHOOL IN ME
BUT NOW THAT I'M GRADUATING IT MAKES ME REALIZE THAT THIS WAS A PRETTY GOOD PLACE
YOU KNOW THERE WERE TIMES I HATED HOW STRICT THIS PLACE WAS,
I LOVE THIS PLACE TOO
That's right-
I loved this school very much.


Goodbye.
Goodbye, everyone.
The kind friends whom I care for very much.
The Vaughn Kaze school I've gotten used to living at after seven years.
DO NOT LOSE YOURSELVES AND WALK DOWN THE PATH YOU TRULY BELIEVE IN
WE PRAY THAT THESE SEVEN YEARS HAVE PROVIDED THE BEST OF FOUNDATIONS FOR YOU TO BUILD UPON
the library, the church, the old scratches on the desks—I love them all.
Even the scent of the dusty wood from the T O room that no longer exists
Seven years ago Natalie was among this crowd-
In these seven years, everything has changed
Goodbye. I love you all-

A new school, a new life.
The only thing that hasn't changed are my feelings, and they're being left behind-
Many things are passing by-
What awkward people we are.
Am I the one who is standing still? Or is it Natalie?
THAT'S RIGHT I'D LIKE THOSE
THE GYPSOPHILA AND THE WHITE ROSES.
HERE'S A FREEBIE
THANK YOU
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD. YOU LOOK A BIT PALE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.
WELL THEN, I'LL HAVE THESE DELIVERED BY TODAY TO THIS ADDRESS

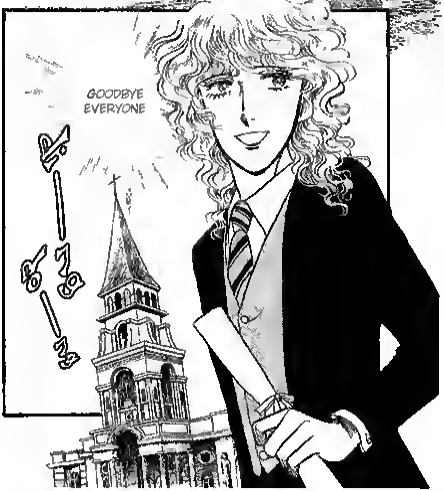
...Oh no...
...I feel sick.
I wonder if his graduation ceremony is happening right about now...
What should I do... I have to get home quickly...
...and head home..
...I need to stop a taxi...
That's... strange. my feet won't move forward...
KYAAAH!
music
wave

I WILL! REMI, YOU BETTER WRITE ME LETTERS TOO!
TAKE CARE!
WRITE ME A LETTER FROM TIME TO TIME. ALL RIGHT?
FRANCIS, REMI! SIGN THIS!

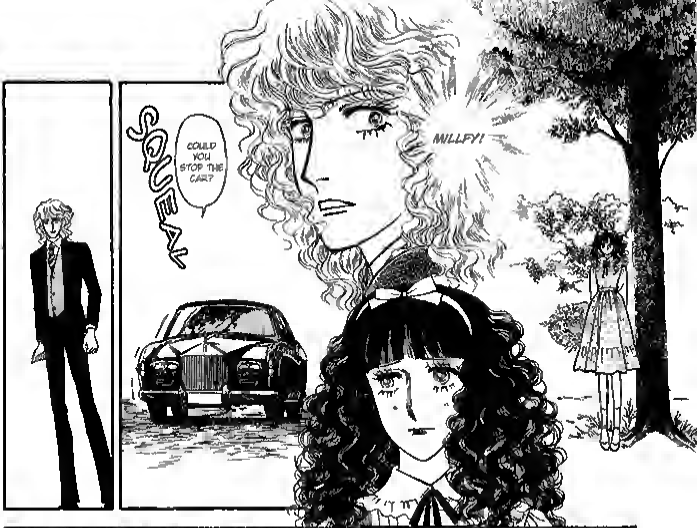
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOME-DAY!
SEE YA!
GOOD LUCK!

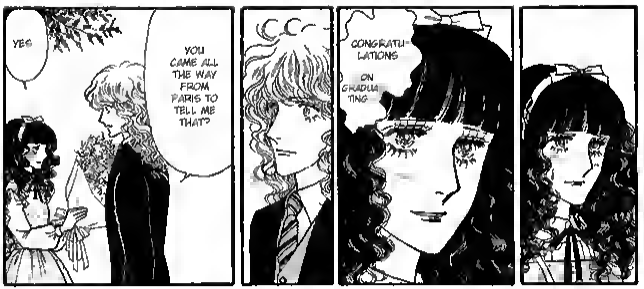
THE BELLS ARE STILL RINGING
THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP RINGING IT UNTIL DUSK
IT MUST BE A FARE-WELL BELL.

ベル


GOODBYE EVERYONE
カーン
カーン

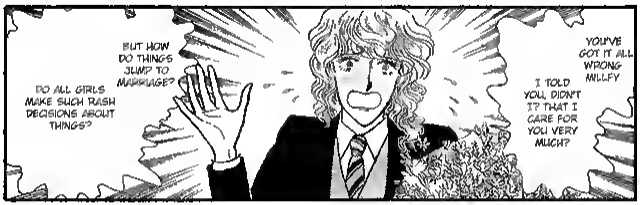
I CAN USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO OUT MORE!
PARIS ISN'T THAT FAR AWAY
OH DON'T BE SILLY THIS ISN'T GOODBYE FOREVER
THE MAIDS WERE VERY SAD TO SEE YOU OFF AS WELL
MASTER WILL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU
UNLESS YOU ASK OF ME A BIT OF A GRAND REQUEST, I FEEL A BIT UNSATISFIED
YOU'RE SO MODEST THAT, AS A GRANDFATHER, IT MAKES ME FEEL A TAD LONELY
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS THOUGH, MAKE SURE TO LET ME KNOW, ALL RIGHT FRANCIS?
He always has my best interest at heart, and he doesn't try to tie me down.
YOU ALWAYS OVERINDULGE ME LIKE THAT
How can I accept everything as it is without resisting?
How can I become someone like you?

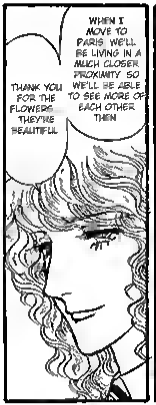

SQUEAL
COULD YOU STOP THE CAR?
MILLFY!

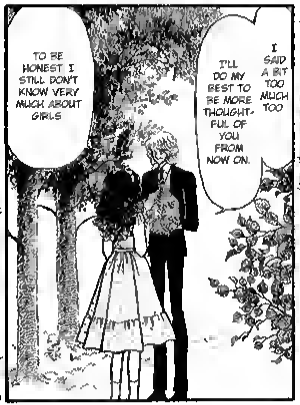

YES
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM PARIS TO TELL ME THAT?
CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATING

BUT IT'S JUST... I WAS SO SCARED
BECAUSE I FELT LIKE YOU WERE BECOMING SOMEONE VERY FAR AWAY
BUT...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHEN I WAS COMING BACK SO YOU COULD'VE JUST WAITED INSIDE.
WHY WAIT HERE THOUGH?
YOU'RE STILL UPSET WITH ME AREN'T YOU?
FOR WHAT I SAID THE OTHER DAY?
I'M REALLY SORRY. I WENT TOO FAR
WHEN DID I EVER SAY THAT I WOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE?
W-WAIT MILLY...
W-WELL
BUT WHEN YOU SAID NO...
I THOUGHT IF THAT COULD HAPPEN, WE'D BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN,
I WAS SCARED THAT YOU WOULDN'T GIVE A CHILD LIKE ME THE TIME OF DAY ONCE YOU STARTED UNIVERSITY
SO WHEN MY MOTHER BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF MARRIAGE

I'VE ALWAYS CARED ABOUT YOU SINCE I WAS A LITTLE CHILD!
EVEN MORE SO THAN MY BROTHER EVIAN!
YOU NEVER CAME OVER TO MY PLACE UNLESS THERE WAS A GOOD REASON TO!
...EVEN AS WE WERE GROWING UP THOUGH! IT WAS ALWAYS ME WHO CAME TO YOU

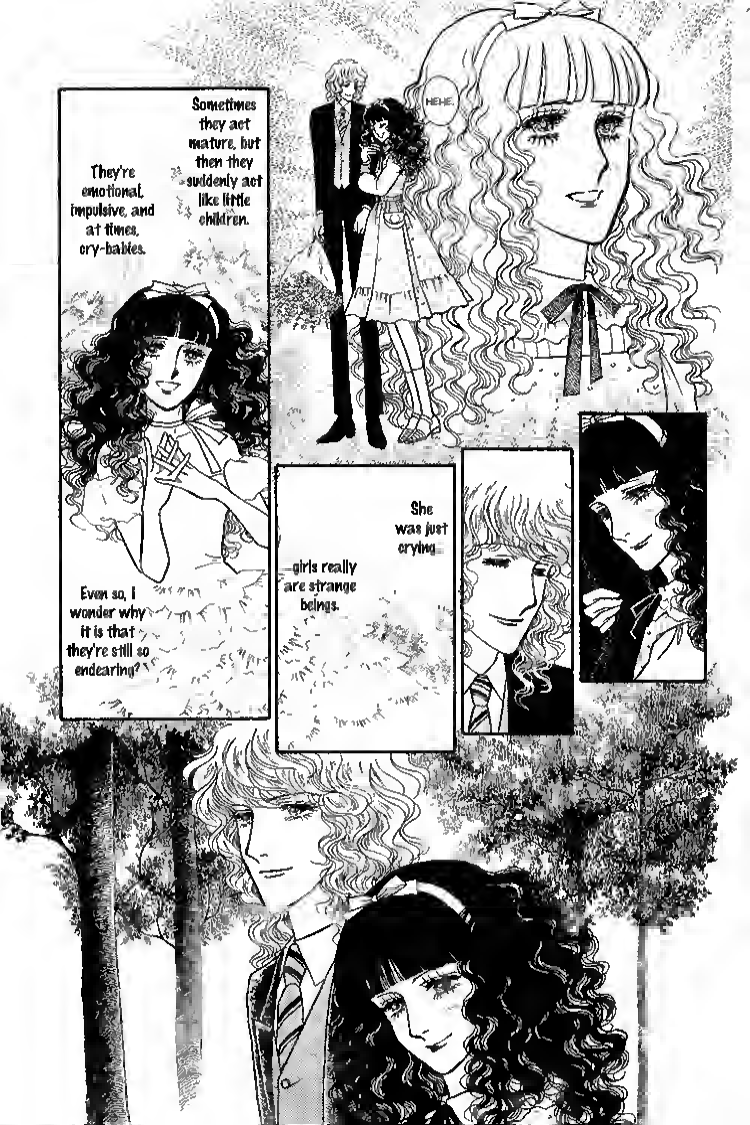

DO ALL GIRLS MAKE SUCH RASH DECISIONS ABOUT THINGS?
BUT HOW DO THINGS JUMP TO MARRIAGE?
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THAT I CARE FOR YOU VERY MUCH?
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG MILLY


THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS. THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL
WHEN I MOVE TO PARIS WE'LL BE LIVING IN A MUCH CLOSER PROXIMITY SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE MORE OF EACH OTHER THEN

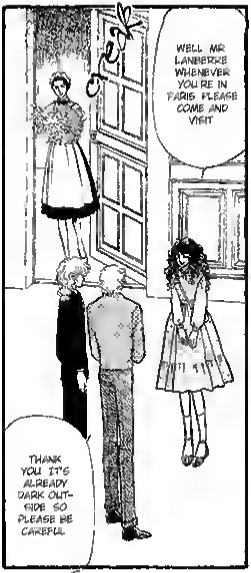

TO BE HONEST I STILL DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT GIRLS
I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE MORE THOUGHTFUL OF YOU FROM NOW ON.
I SAID A BIT TOO MUCH TOO

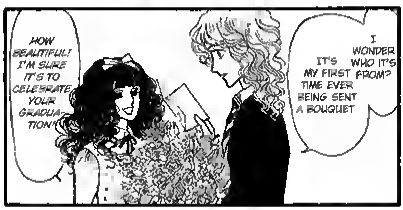
I JUST THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE THAT WAY

Chuckle

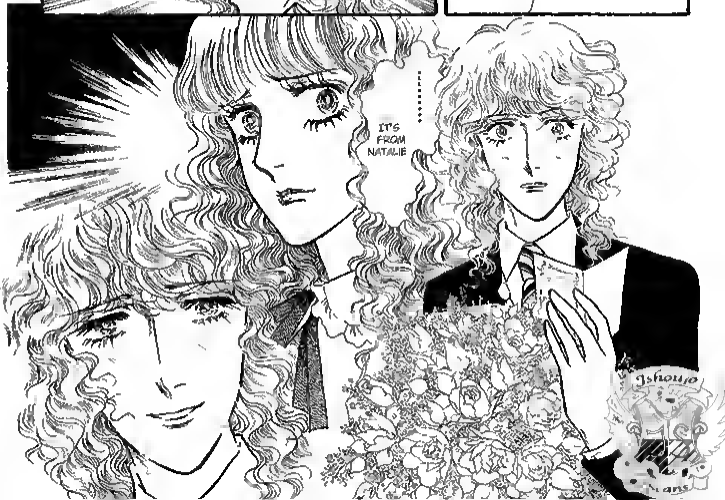

HEHE
Sometimes they act mature, but then they suddenly act like little children.
They're emotional, impulsive, and at times, cry-babies.
Even so, I wonder why it is that they're still so endearing?
girls really are strange beings.
She was just crying

WHAT A LOVELY FRAGRANCE!
A BOUQUET HAS BEEN DELIVERED FOR YOU
WHAT PERFECT TIMING MR FRANCIS!


WELL MR LANBERRE WHENEVER YOU'RE IN PARIS PLEASE COME AND VISIT
THANK YOU IT'S ALREADY DARK OUTSIDE SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL


HOW BEAUTIFUL! I'M SURE IT'S TO CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATION!
I WONDER WHO IT'S FROM? IT'S MY FIRST TIME EVER BEING SENT A BOUQUET

blinks


IT'S FROM NATALIE

FRANCIS, TURN THIS WAY!
LOOK MY WAY!
NO FRANCIS, DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT
WELL SEE YOU, MILLY
I BETTER CALL HER.....
NO!
Pit
Pat
Pit
Pat
DON'T GO, FRANCIS!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE
I'LL HAVE PIERRE SEE YOU TO THE STATION.

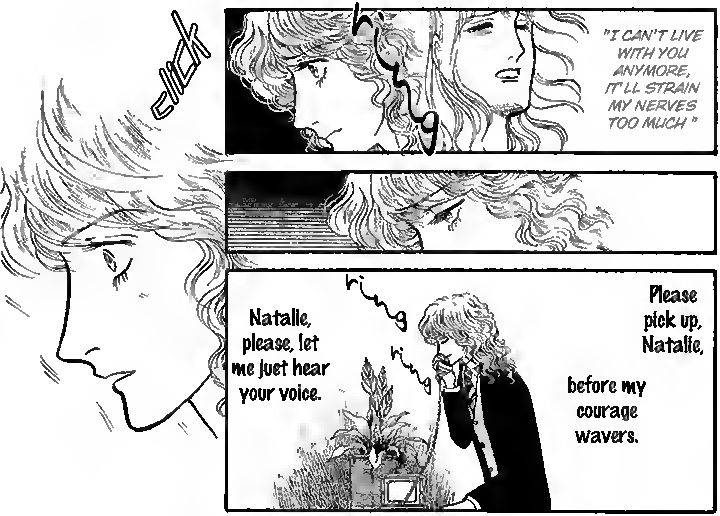
BECAUSE THEIR AGES ARE SO FAR APART THEY COULD BE MOTHER AND SON
THAT'S FOR THEM TO WORRY ABOUT
IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY...
WHY WOULD I BE?
AREN'T YOU AGAINST IT?
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE
.....
DID YOU KNOW
THAT FRANCIS IS IN LOVE WITH MISS NATALIE?
I...LOVE FRANCIS
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, MILLFY

All it said on the card was "Congratulations on Your Graduation"...

...Why then do I feel so happy?

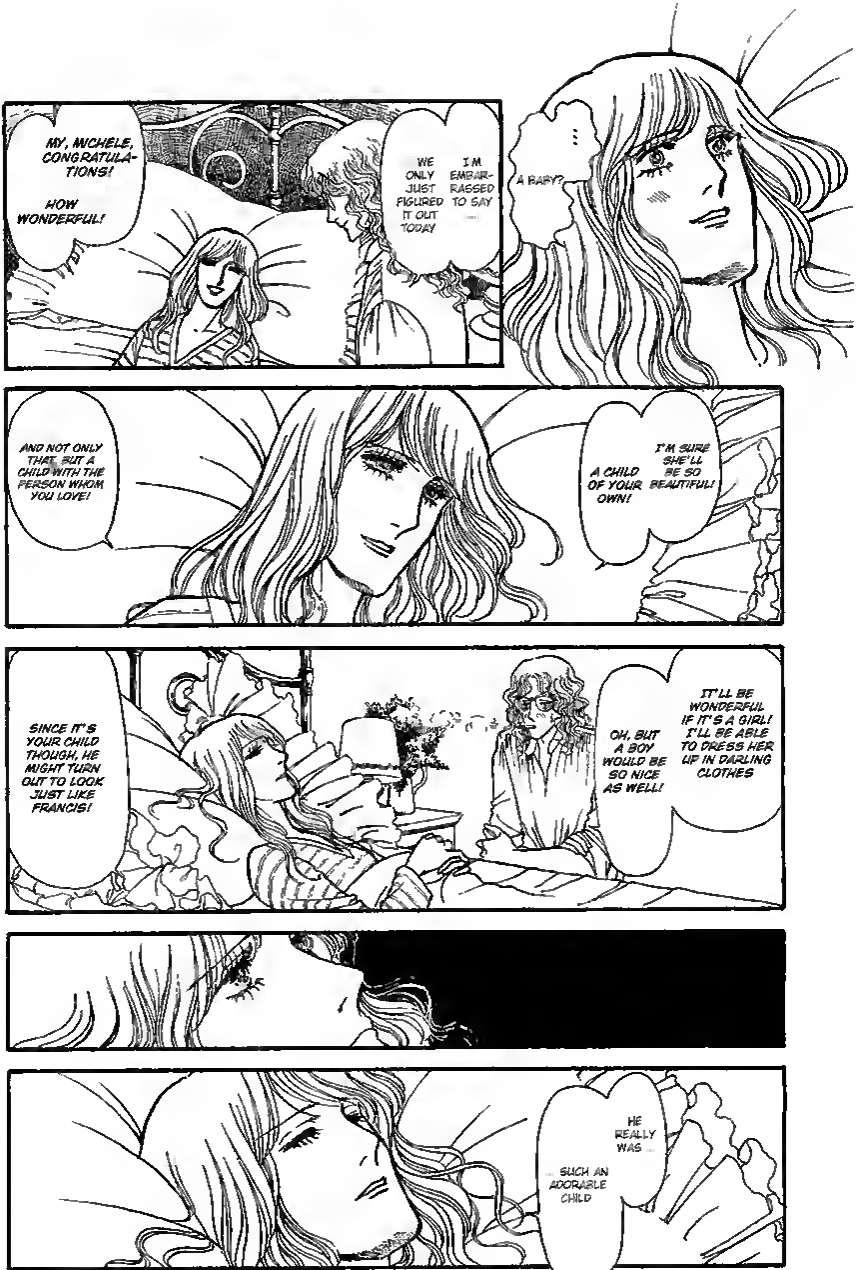
ring ring

Because Francis' heart is his alone.

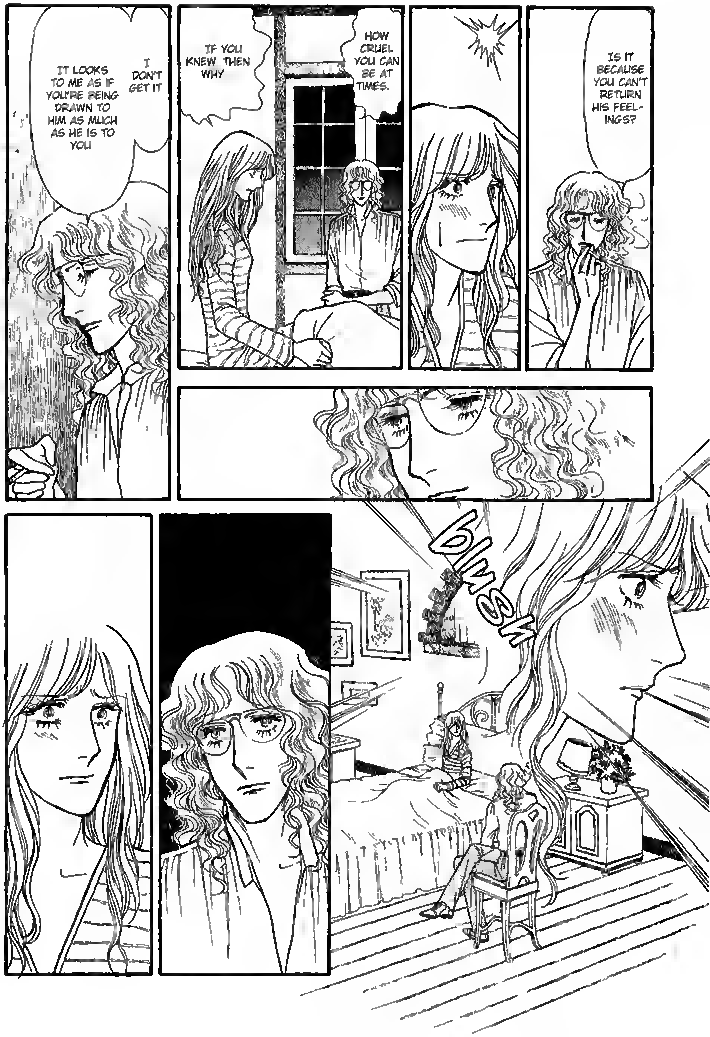

click
ring
"I CAN'T LIVE WITH YOU ANYMORE, IT'LL STRAIN MY NERVES TOO MUCH"
Natalie, please, let me juet hear your voice.
ring
ring
Please pick up, Natalie,
before my courage wavers.

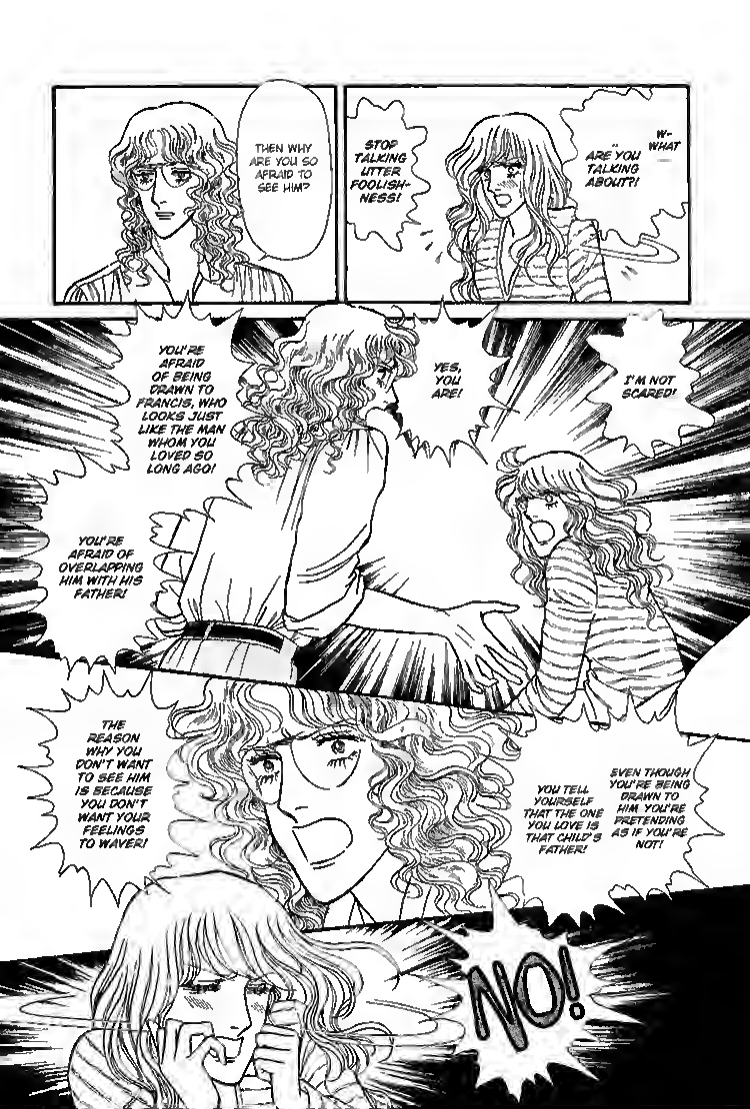
VROOM
EH
OH
MICHELE?
NATALIE?
WHAT?!
SCREECH
"SHE HASN'T BEEN FEELING VERY WELL FOR A WHILE. WE WERE ALL WORRIED BECAUSE SHE WAS BEING SO RECKLESS."
"SINCE SHE'S LIVING BY HERSELF, I FIGURED IT MIGHT BE BEST TO CHECK HER INTO THE HOSPITAL."
SHE COLLAPSED?!
NATALIE COLLAPSED?!

NATALIE BUT WHY?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ?!
To think she collapsed right in the middle of the street!
I had no idea she was being so reckless...
PARADE
HA
yo
THE SMELL OF MEAT WHILE I WAS COOKING SEEMED TO HAVE MADE HER A BIT SICK
AND NOT ONLY THAT BUT MY WIFE'S BEEN COMPLAINING OF FEELING A BIT QUEASY
I THOUGHT MY HEART WAS GOING TO STOP WHEN I GOT A CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL!
YOU NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR BODY
IS EVERYTHING OKAY WITH ELAINE?
SWISH SWISH
I'M SORRY MICHELE
YOU REALLY HAD ME WORRIED THERE, YOU KNOW!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN QUITE A BIT

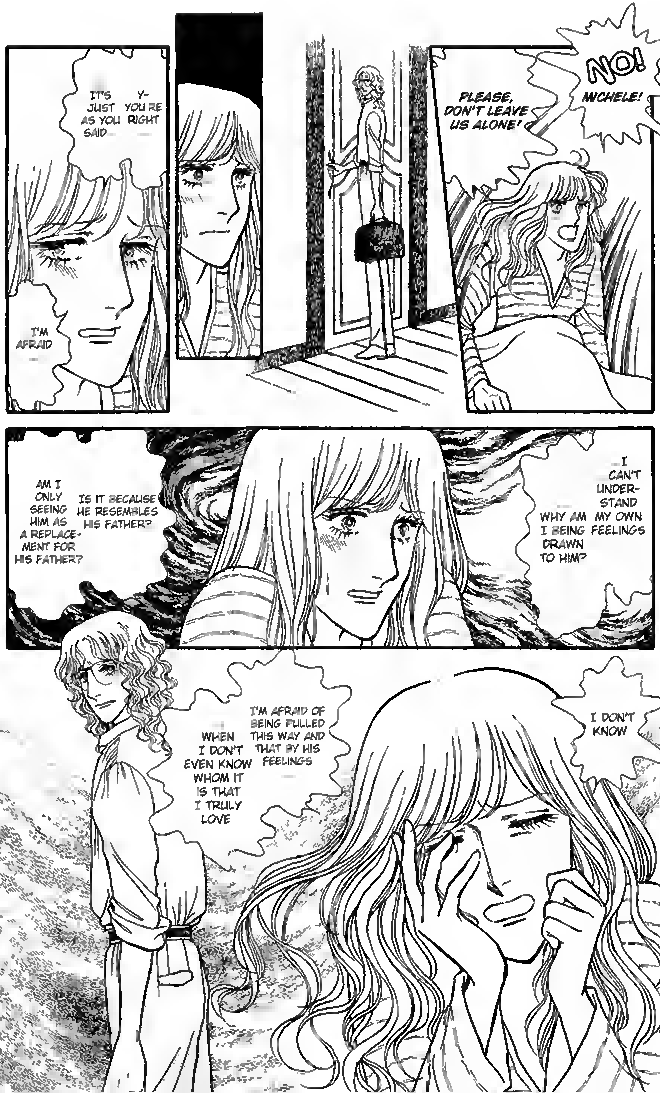

MY, MICHELE, CONGRATULATIONS!
HOW WONDERFUL!
WE ONLY JUST FIGURED IT OUT TODAY
I'M EMBARRASSED TO SAY ...
A BABY?
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT A CHILD WITH THE PERSON WHOM YOU LOVE!
A CHILD OF YOUR OWN!
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE SO BEAUTIFUL!
SINCE IT'S YOUR CHILD THOUGH, HE MIGHT TURN OUT TO LOOK JUST LIKE FRANCIS!
OH, BUT A BOY WOULD BE SO NICE AS WELL!
IT'LL BE WONDERFUL IF IT'S A GIRL! I'LL BE ABLE TO DRESS HER UP IN DARLING CLOTHES
HE REALLY WAS ... SUCH AN ADORABLE CHILD

I TOLD HIM
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU...
WHAT?
I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM HIM WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING
I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN
HE HAS HIS OWN LIFE TO WORRY ABOUT!
YOU CAN'T, MICHELE!
I DON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY ABOUT ME!
PLEASE UNDERSTAND MICHELE I'LL ONLY END UP HURTING HIM
I CAN'T SEE HIM!
No!
I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE RIGHT NOW
IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT HE'D BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU
I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM ANY-MORE
I DON'T WANT TO


IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T RETURN HIS FEELINGS?
HOW CRUEL YOU CAN BE AT TIMES.
IF YOU KNEW THEN WHY
I DON'T GET IT
IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF YOU'RE BEING DRAWN TO HIM AS MUCH AS HE IS TO YOU
BLUSH


THEN WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID TO SEE HIM?
STOP TALKING UTTER FOOLISH-NESS!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF BEING DRAWN TO FRANCIS, WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE THE MAN WHOM YOU LOVED SO LONG AGO!
YES, YOU ARE!
I'M NOT SCARED!
YOU'RE AFRAID OF OVERLAPPING HIM WITH HIS FATHER!
THE REASON WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM IS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FEELINGS TO WAVER!
YOU TELL YOURSELF THAT THE ONE YOU LOVE IS THAT CHILD'S FATHER!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BEING DRAWN TO HIM, YOU'RE PRETENDING AS IF YOU'RE NOT!
NO!

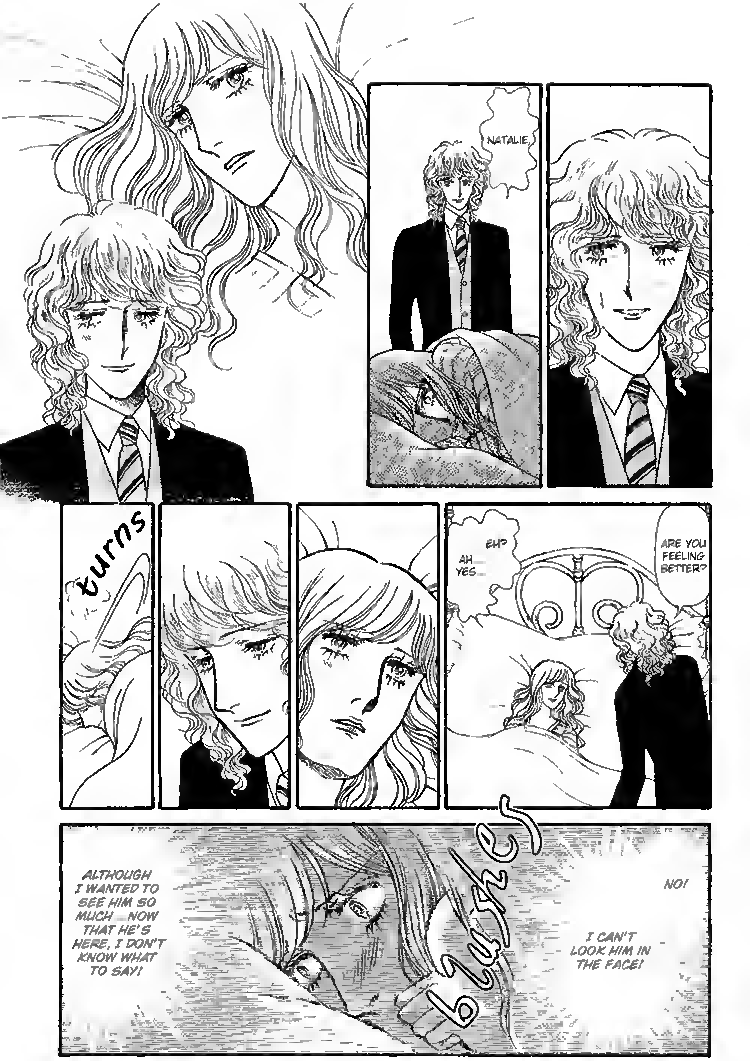
IT WAS TO FRANCIS, THE ONE WHO'S STILL ALIVE
THE ONE YOU WERE CALLING OUT TO IN YOUR SLEEP WAS FRANCIS
NATALIE
THAT'S WHY... I TOLD HIM.
WHAT YOU NEED MOST OF ALL RIGHT NOW IS FRANCIS.
MICHELE!
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO HIM.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HERE
tense
ding dong

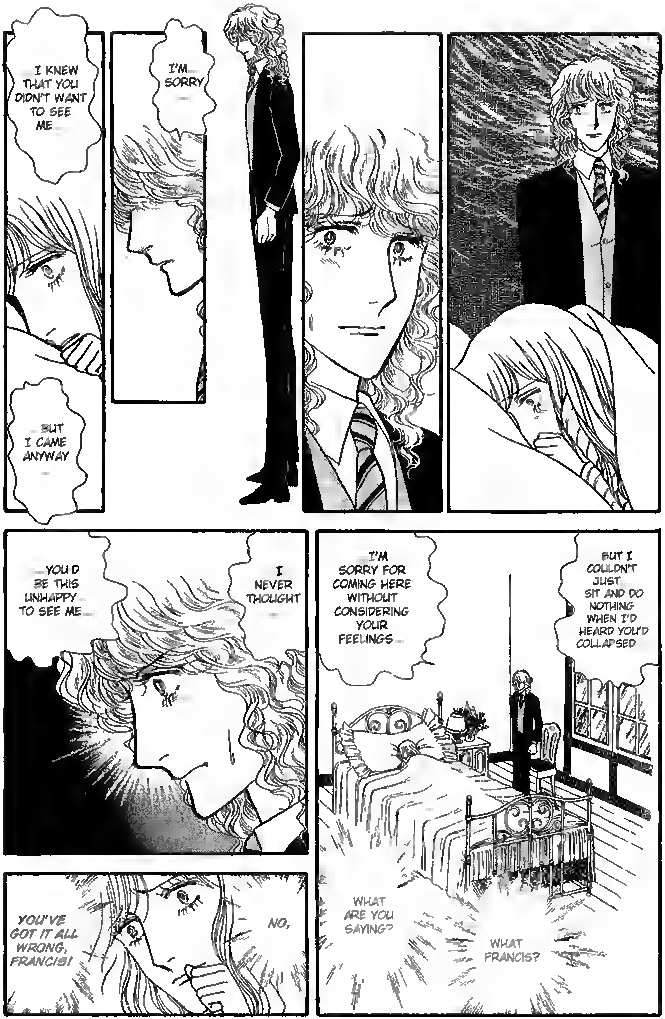

NO!
MICHELE!
PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE US ALONE!
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID...
I'M AFRAID...
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND MY OWN FEELINGS
WHY AM I BEING DRAWN TO HIM?
IS IT BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES HIS FATHER?
AM I ONLY SEEING HIM AS A REPLACEMENT FOR HIS FATHER?
I DON'T KNOW
I'M AFRAID OF BEING PULLED THIS WAY AND THAT BY HIS FEELINGS
WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHOM IT IS THAT I TRULY LOVE

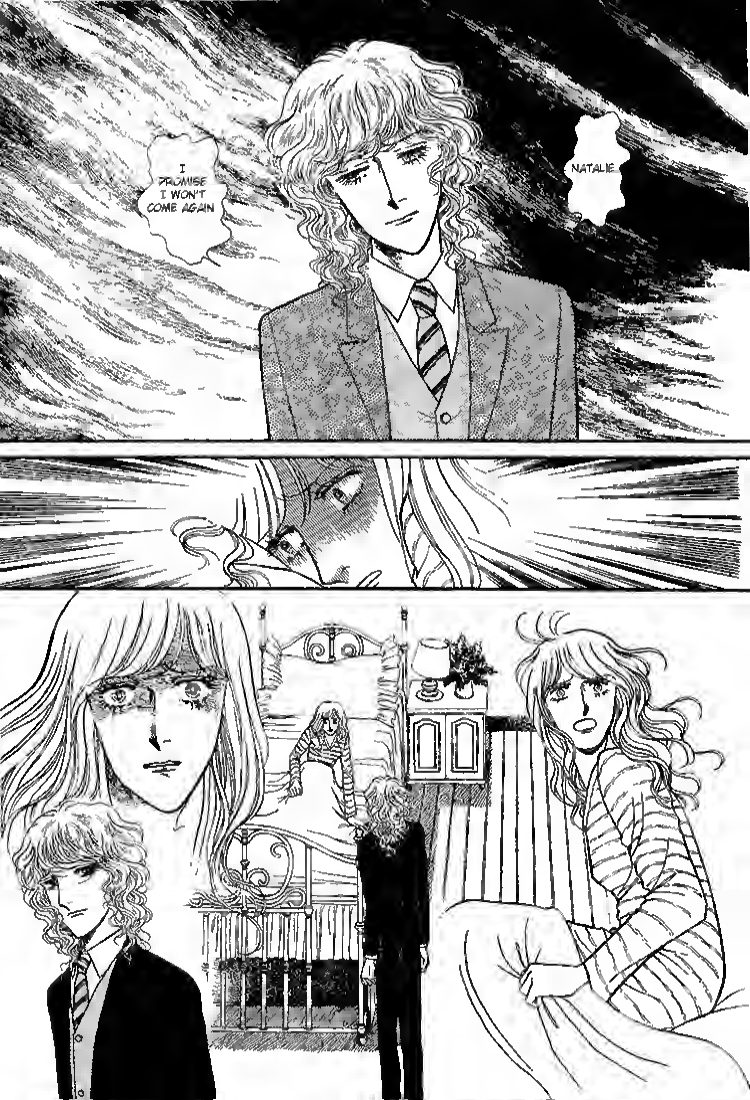
WELL YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND OUT IF YOU KEEP RUNNING AWAY
IT'S BEST YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF
click
YOU CAN'T STAY FOREVER AS YOU ARE NOW
WHERE'S NATALIE?
I'M GLAD YOU CAME
IT MUST'VE TAKEN QUITE SOME COURAGE
exhale
SHE STILL HAS A BIT OF A FEVER, BUT SHE'LL BE FINE
IT'S JUST SIMPLE OVER EXHAUSTION THE REAL ILLNESS LIES IN HERE
SHE'S QUITE THE PRO AT STRESSING HERSELF OUT

DOES SHE KNOW I'M HERE?
YOU FELL FOR A HANDFUL. THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR YOU
SHE WAS QUITE RESISTANT TO THE IDEA.
How nostalgic!
Thank you, Michele.
This is house that has reappeared in my dreams so many times...
I never thought I'd be able to come here again.

What can I do...?
What should I do...?
Shuuu
PIT
PAT
He's coming up... those are Francis' footsteps
PIT
PAT
PIT
PAT
Oh, how could you, Michele!
We parted without another word to each other. How should I face him now?
ba-dump
NO! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
ba-dump
PLEASE DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
tense
click
NATALIE!


NATALIE...
turns
EH?
AH, YES...
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
blushes
ALTHOUGH I WANTED TO SEE HIM SO MUCH... NOW THAT HE'S HERE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
NO!
I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE FACE!

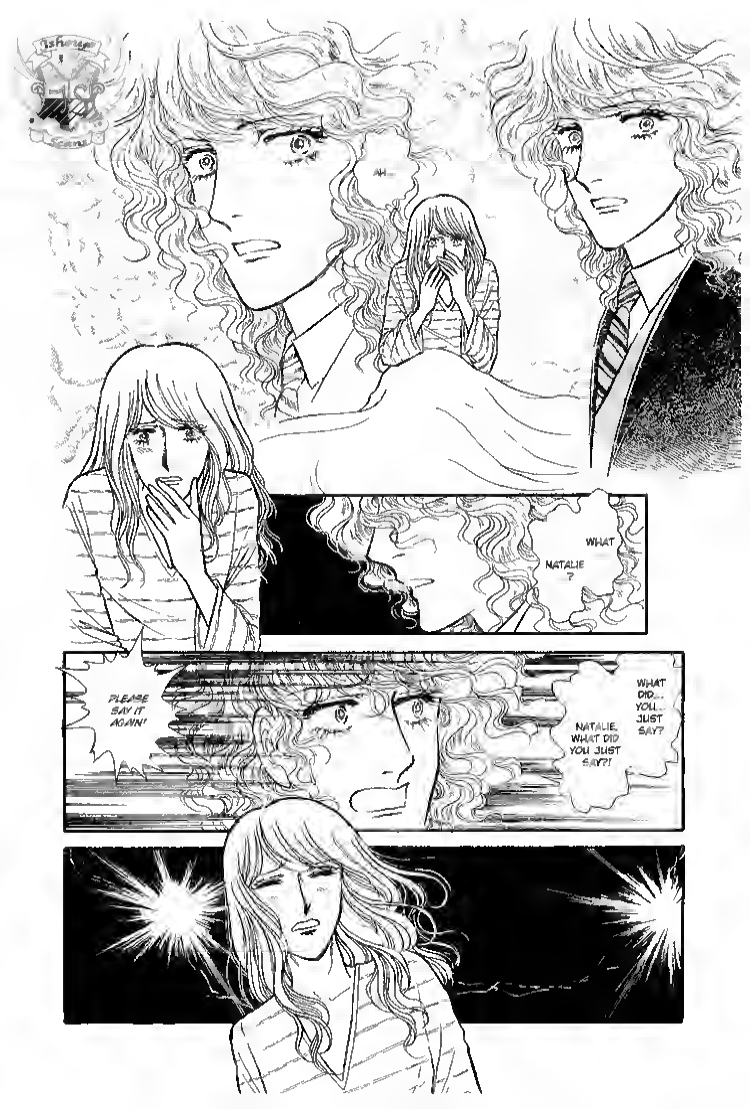

I KNEW THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME
I'M SORRY
BUT I CAME ANYWAY
I NEVER THOUGHT
YOU'D BE THIS UNHAPPY TO SEE ME
I'M SORRY FOR COMING HERE WITHOUT CONSIDERING YOUR FEELINGS
BUT I COULDN'T JUST SIT AND DO NOTHING WHEN I'D HEARD YOU'D COLLAPSED
NO,
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, FRANCIS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT FRANCIS?

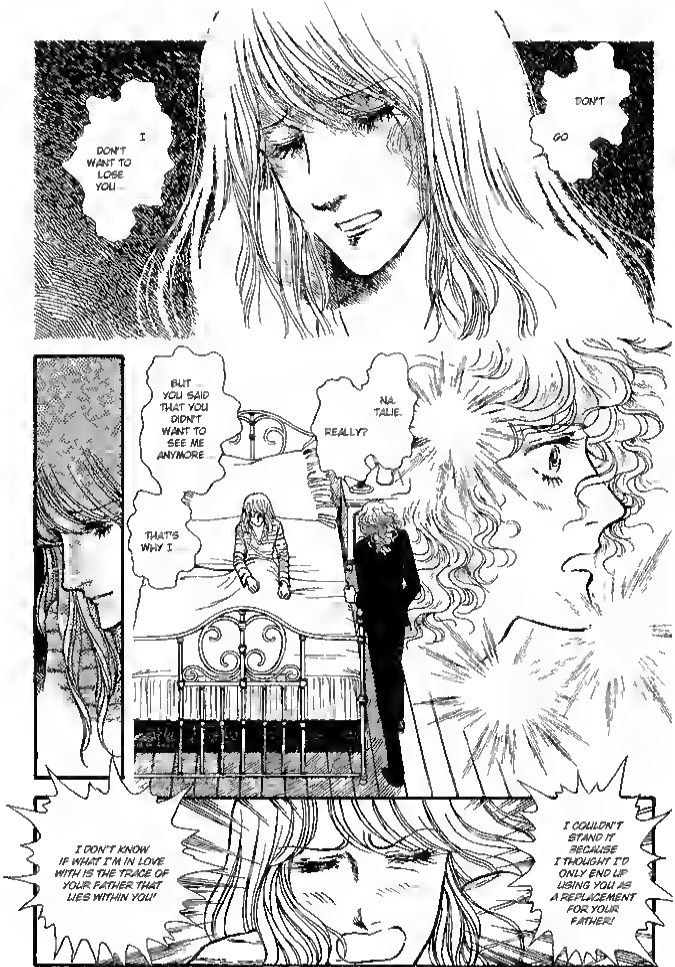

I PROMISE I WON'T COME AGAIN
NATALIE

YOU NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF
CREAK
I'M GOING TO LOSE HIM!
IF I DON'T STOP HIM NOW, I'LL LOSE HIM FOREVER!

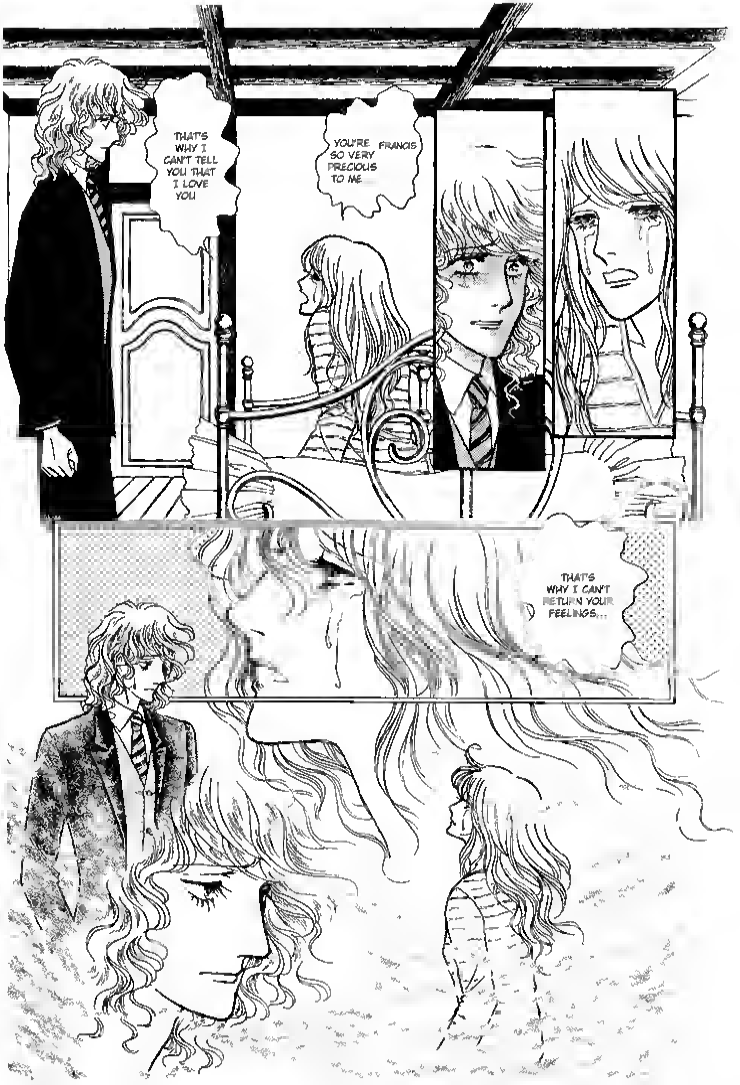
Are you gong to spend the rest of your life like those painful, suffocating days you've already spent?!
Are you going to be fine not seeing him ever again?
DON'T GO, FRANCIS!

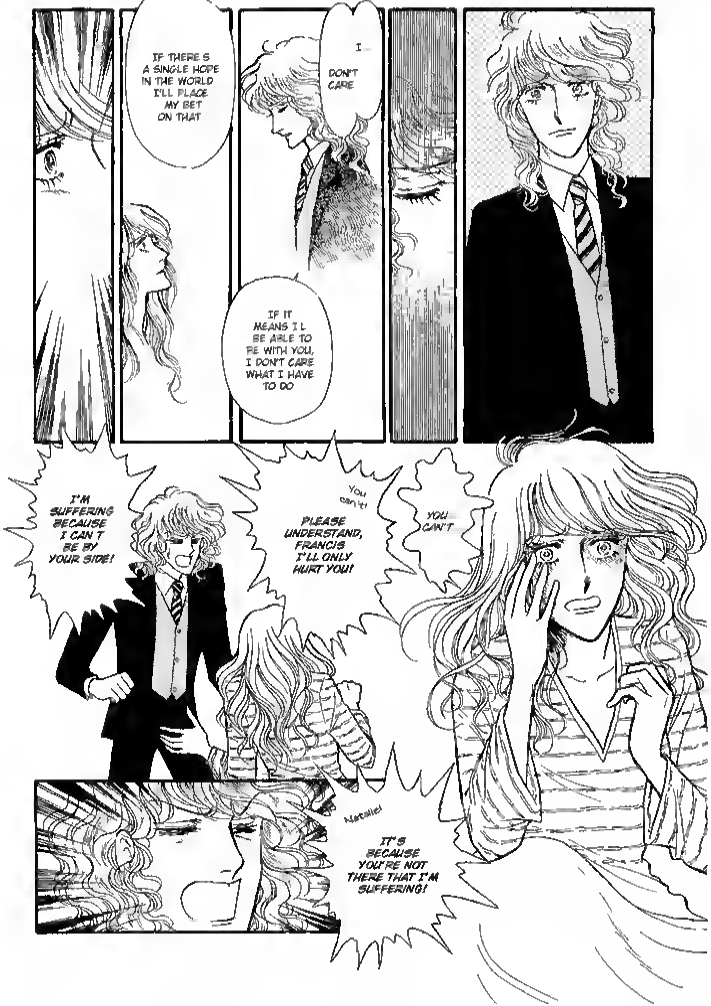
Volume 4 Chapter 29

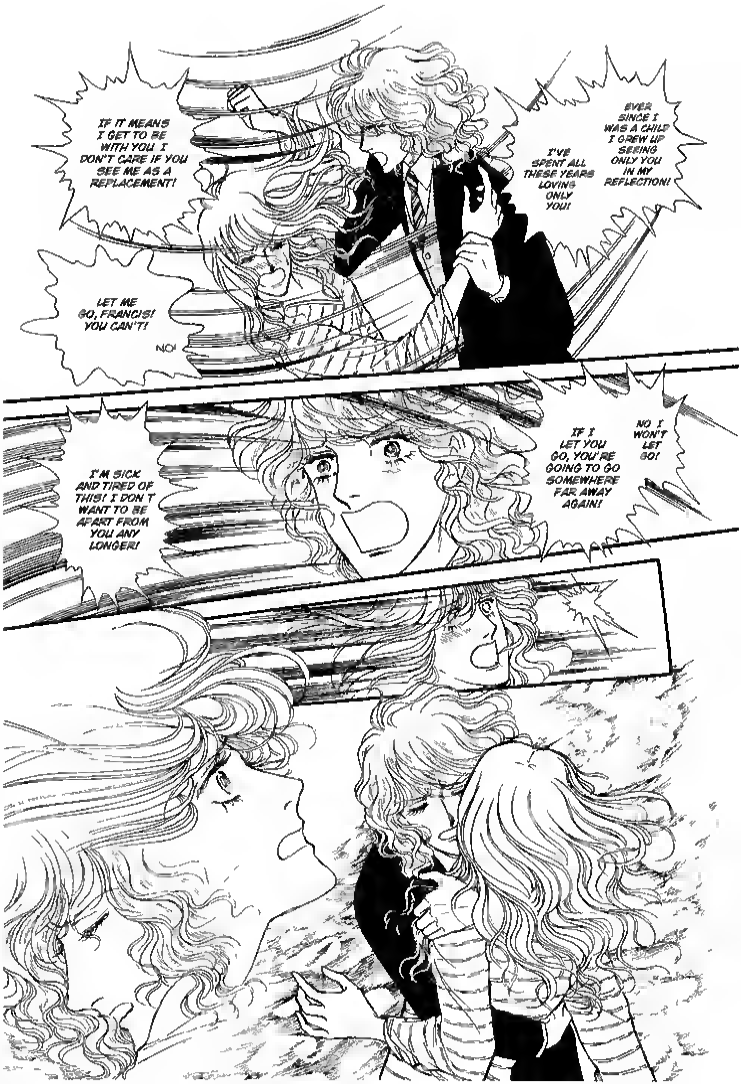

AH...
WHAT
NATALIE
?
WHAT DID... YOU... JUST SAY?
NATALIE, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
PLEASE SAY IT AGAIN!

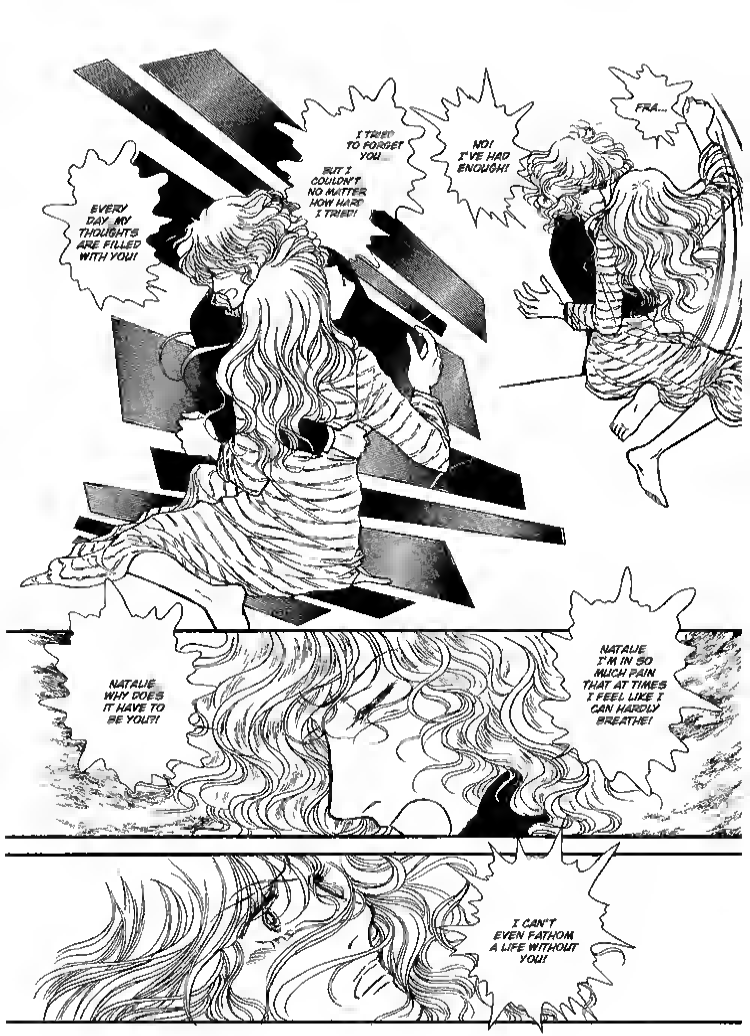

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU...
DON'T GO
BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE
NA-TALIE...
REALLY?
THAT'S WHY I
I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT I'M IN LOVE WITH IS THE TRACE OF YOUR FATHER THAT LIES WITHIN YOU!
I COULDN'T STAND IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT I'D ONLY END UP USING YOU AS A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR FATHER!

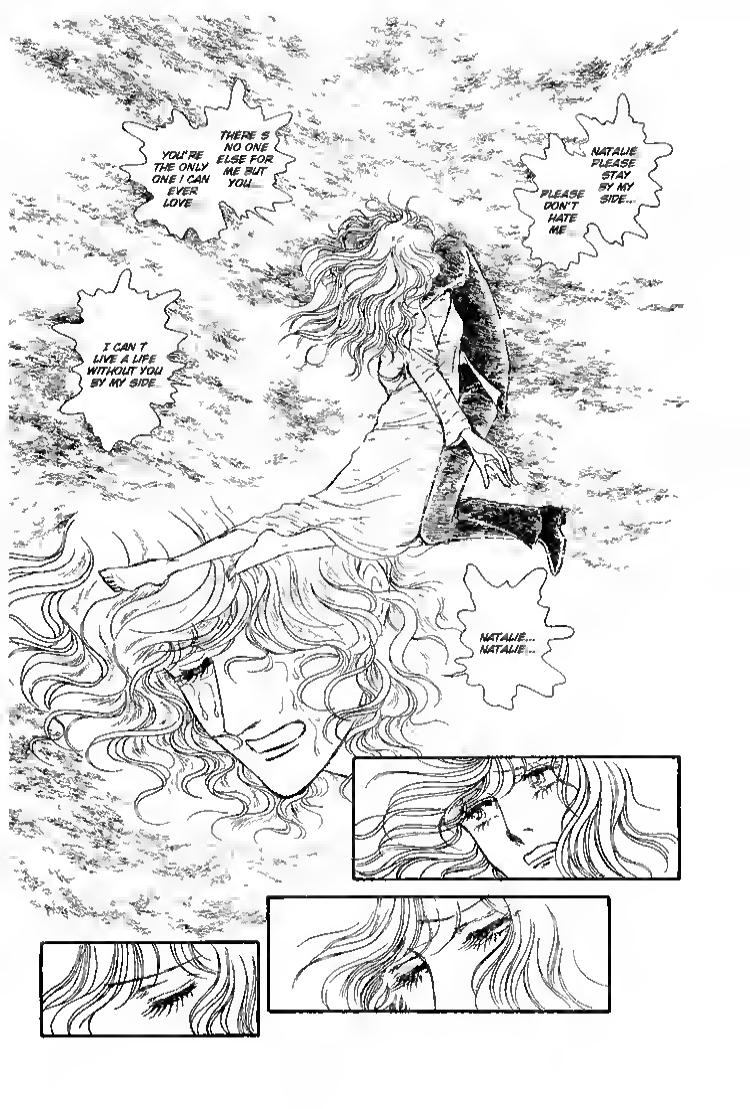
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'RE BEING DRAWN TO ME...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
BECAUSE EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS THAT I LOVE!
I'M AFRAID OF THESE FEELINGS THAT WANT TO TIE YOU TO ME-
I'M SCARED BECAUSE I CAN FEEL MYSELF BEING DRAWN TO YOU
I MIGHT ONLY BE WANTING TO SEE A CONTINUATION TO MY DREAM!
IT MIGHT JUST ALL BE AN ILLUSION OF MINE!
BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT MIGHT BE NOT...
IT'S MIGHT BE TRUE
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE ANY LONGER.
THAT I'LL RUIN YOUR LIFE BY BEING SELFISH
I'M AFRAID

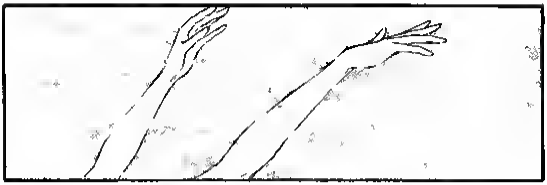

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU
YOU'RE SO VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, FRANCIS
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS...


IF THERE'S A SINGLE HOPE IN THE WORLD I'LL PLACE MY BET ON THAT
I... DON'T CARE
IF IT MEANS I'LL BE ABLE TO BE WITH YOU, I DON'T CARE WHAT I HAVE TO DO
I'M SUFFERING BECAUSE I CAN'T BE BY YOUR SIDE!
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, FRANCIS I'LL ONLY HURT YOU!
YOU CAN'T!
YOU CAN'T
Marcelle!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT THERE THAT I'M SUFFERING!


IF IT MEANS I GET TO BE WITH YOU, I DON'T CARE IF YOU SEE ME AS A REPLACEMENT!
I'VE SPENT ALL THESE YEARS LOVING ONLY YOU!
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I GREW UP SEEING ONLY YOU IN MY REFLECTION!
LET ME GO, FRANCIS! YOU CAN'T!
NO!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS! I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU ANY LONGER!
IF I LET YOU GO, YOU'RE GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY AGAIN!
NO, I WON'T LET GO!


EVERY DAY MY THOUGHTS ARE FILLED WITH YOU!
I TRIED TO FORGET YOU...
BUT I COULDN'T, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED!
NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
FRA...
NATALIE WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU?!
NATALIE I'M IN SO MUCH PAIN THAT AT TIMES I FEEL LIKE I CAN HARDLY BREATHE!
I CAN'T EVEN FATHOM A LIFE WITHOUT YOU!


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN EVER LOVE
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE FOR ME BUT YOU...
NATALIE PLEASE STAY BY MY SIDE..
PLEASE DON'T HATE ME
I CAN'T LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE
NATALIE... NATALIE..

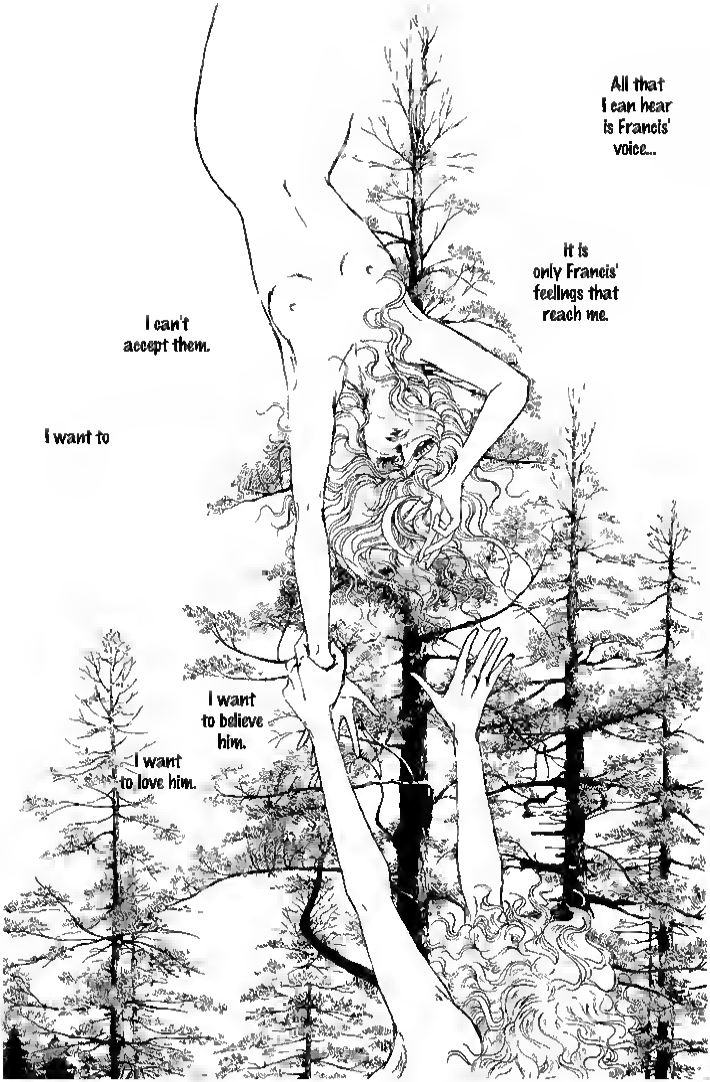


The future and past are melding into one, and I lose focus..

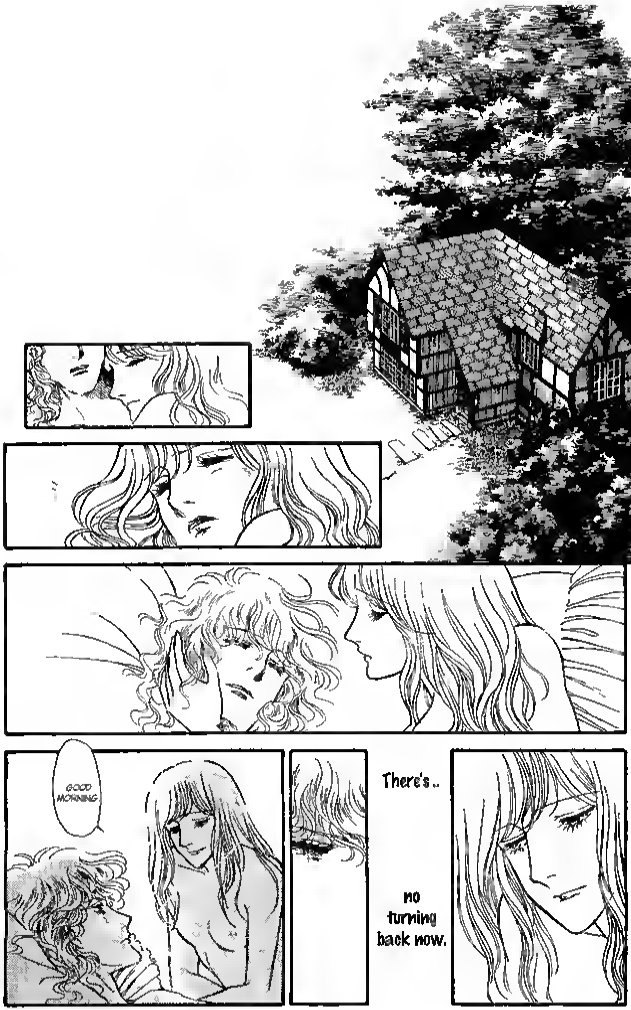
I'm being swept away-

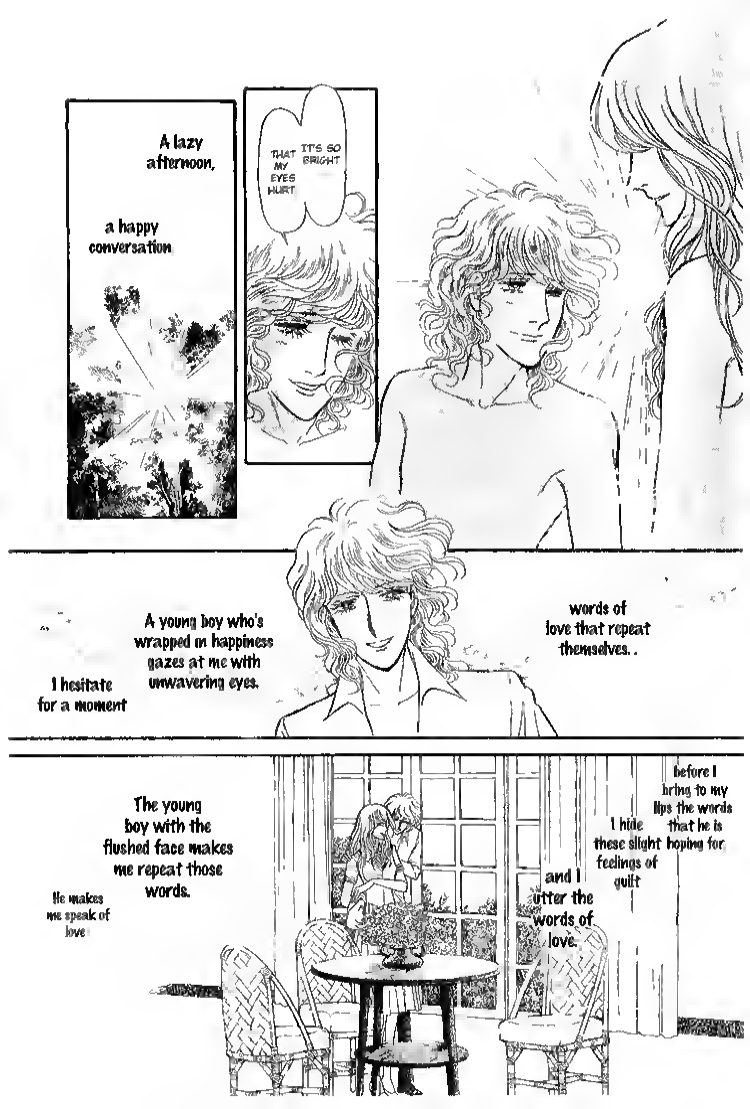
I can't see anything..

I can't think...

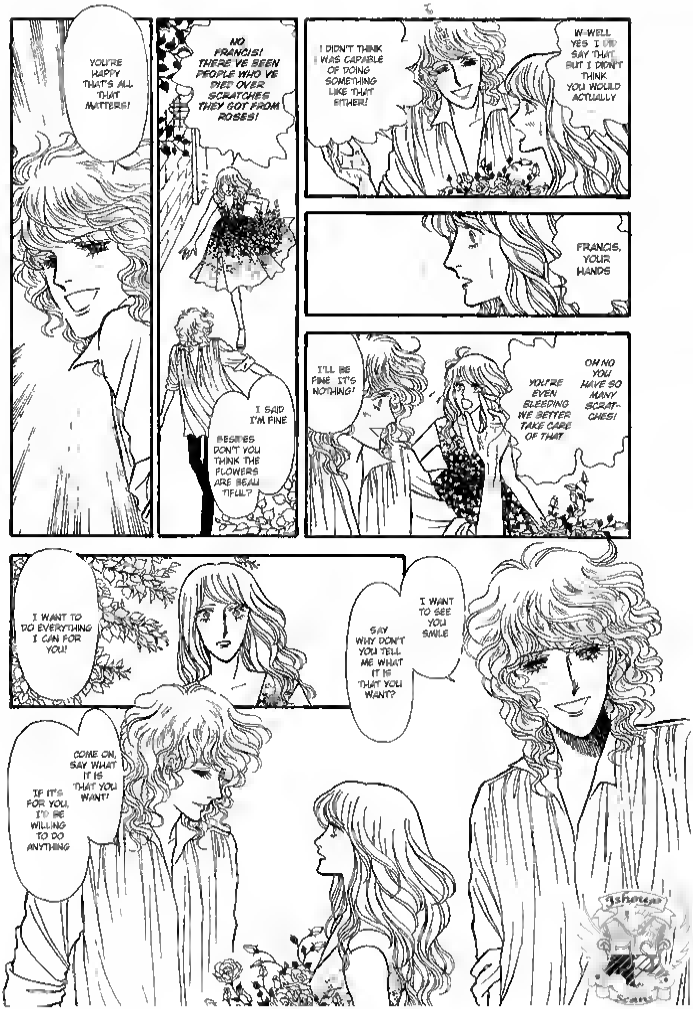

All that I can hear is Francis' voice...
it is only Francis' feelings that reach me.
I can't accept them.
I want to
I want to believe him.
I want to love him.

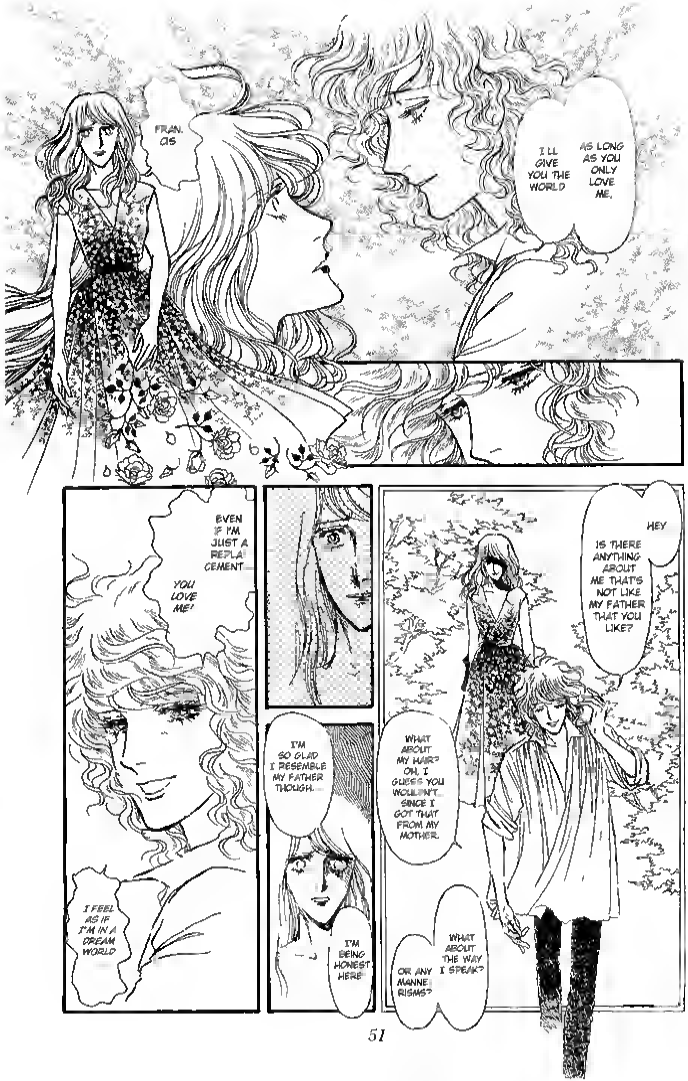
I'm being swept away-
Everything's being swept away by the waves...


GOOD MORNING
There's..
no turning back now.

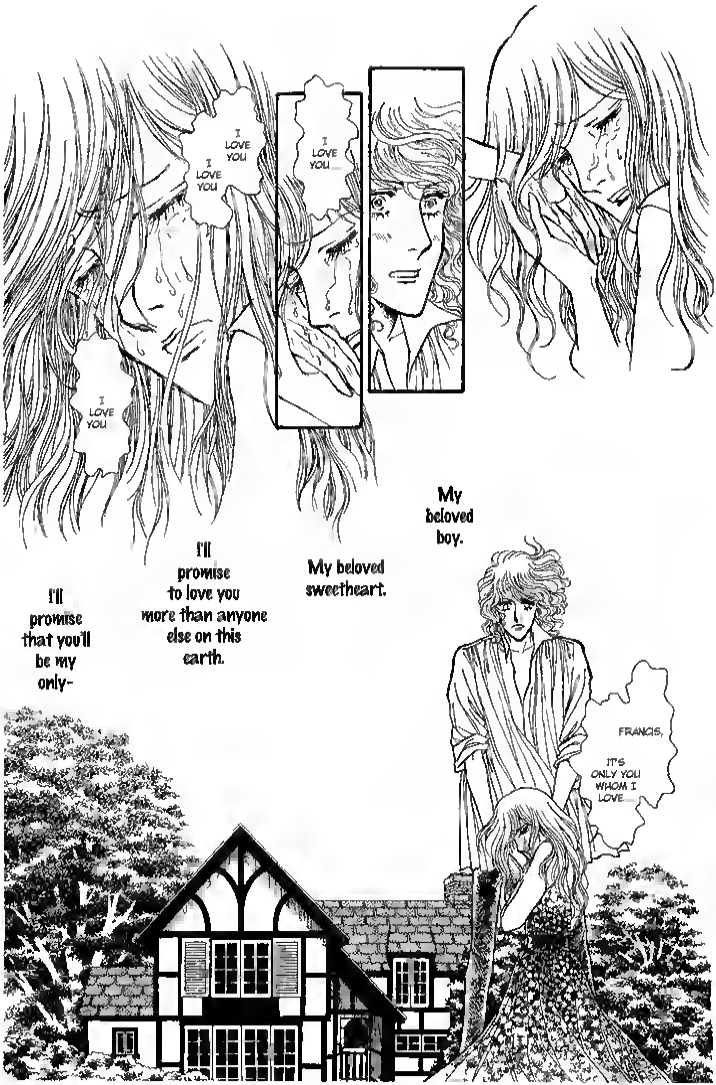

A lazy afternoon,
a happy conversation
THAT MY EYES HURT
IT'S SO BRIGHT
A young boy who's wrapped in happiness gazes at me with unwavering eyes.
I hesitate for a moment
words of love that repeat themselves. .
The young boy with the flushed face makes me repeat those words.
He makes me speak of love
I hide these slight feelings of guilt
before I bring to my lips the words that he is hoping for
and I utter the words of love.

FRANCIS!
PEOPLE ARE GOING TO CATCH US AT ANY MOMENT, FRANCIS!
NO FRANCIS, YOU CAN'T!
WHOA!
SOMEONE REALLY DID COME OUT!
NO!
NATALIE HURRY!
He makes me speak of love-
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FRANCIS
BUT YOU SAID YOU WANTED THEM, NATALIE!
SEE? LOOK HOW PRETTY THEY ARE!


YOU'RE HAPPY THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!
NO FRANCIS! THERE'VE BEEN PEOPLE WHO'VE DIED OVER SCRATCHES THEY GOT FROM ROSES!
I SAID I'M FINE
BESIDES DON'T YOU THINK THE FLOWERS ARE BEAUTIFUL?
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS CAPABLE OF DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT EITHER!
W-WELL YES I DID SAY THAT BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD ACTUALLY
FRANCIS, YOUR HANDS
I'LL BE FINE IT'S NOTHING!
YOU'RE BLEEDING WE BETTER TAKE CARE OF THAT
OH NO YOU HAVE SO MANY SCRATCHES!
I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR YOU!
SAY WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WANT?
I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE
COME ON, SAY WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WANT!
IF IT'S FOR YOU, I'D BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING


FRAN-CIS
I'LL GIVE YOU THE WORLD
AS LONG AS YOU ONLY LOVE ME.
EVEN IF I'M JUST A REPLA-CEMENT...
YOU LOVE ME!
I FEEL AS IF I'M IN A DREAM WORLD.
I'M SO GLAD I RESEMBLE MY FATHER THOUGH...
I'M BEING HONEST HERE!
WHAT ABOUT MY HAIR? OH, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T... SINCE I GOT THAT FROM MY MOTHER.
WHAT ABOUT THE WAY I SPEAK? OR ANY MANNE-RISMS?
HEY
IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT ME THAT'S NOT LIKE MY FATHER THAT YOU LIKE?

NATALIE...
IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY FOR YOU TO FEEL HOW HAPPY I AM RIGHT NOW!
YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LONGED FOR THIS HOME
I LOVE YOU
NATALIE I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ON THIS WORLD!!
YOU'RE SO FOOLISH
OH YOU SILLY LITTLE...


I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I'll promise that you'll be my only-
I'll promise to love you more than anyone else on this earth.
My beloved sweetheart.
My beloved boy.
FRANCIS,
IT'S ONLY YOU WHOM I LOVE

THAT CAN'T BE! FRANCIS IS AT MISS NATALIE S'?
HOW CAN YOU TELL ME SUCH A CRUEL LIE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
STOP TALKING NONSENSE WHAT NEED DO I HAVE TO LIE TO YOU?
IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME THEN GO AND SEE THE HOUSE
BUT HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO MOVE HERE TWO WEEKS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED!
MR. LAMBERRE SAID THAT ALL HIS THINGS HAVE BEEN SENT HERE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, YOU DON'T LIKE ME SO YOU'RE TELLING ME AN AWFUL LIE LIKE THIS AREN'T YOU?
I TOLD YOU BY PHONE TOO DIDN'T I? THAT HE WASN'T HERE?
WELL YEAH, ALL HIS LUGGAGE'S ALREADY ARRIVED~ EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE OWNER OF THAT LUGGAGE THAT IS
FOXY

WILL YOU JUST CUT IT OUT, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!
TELL ME WHERE FRANCIS IS!
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN TRULY LOVED ANYONE BEFORE, HAVE YOU?
W-WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW...?!
IF YOU HAD, YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL TO ME!
YOU STILL THINK THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, HAVE YOU?
IT'S AS I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU- FRANCIS IS AT NATALIE'S PLACE
FOXY
EVEN IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO BELIEVE ME, THAT'S THE TRUTH
WHY DON'T YOU STOP ALWAYS TRAILING AFTER FRANCIS?
TALK ABOUT BEING INGRATEFUL!
LOUSY

I'D THANK MY LUCKY STARS IF YOU NEVER SHOWED YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN
WELL THEN, I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!
SLAM
DON'T TRY AND GIVE ME ORDERS!
I'M LEAVING! I WISH I HADN'T BOTHERED COMING HERE!
She screams and yells as she likes- what kind of attitude is that?
Huh, what a loud-mouthed woman.
click
It's just a matter of whether to push those feelings onto the other or to keep quiet-
we're no different in the end.
Sorry to say but I'm always serious.
I'm truly in love- hook, line and sinker

What a hot day it is today-
That'll never be filled
16 years of months and dates...
DID YOU KNOW? OUR AGES ARE 16 YEARS APART
EVEN WHEN I TURN 40 YOU'LL STILL BE 24
I'M WATCHING THE ICE MELT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHEN I TURN THAT AGE THOUGH, I'LL PROBABLY BE MISERABLE
AND BECOME JEALOUS OF YOUR YOUTH
I DON'T WISH FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT I ALREADY HAVE
I WONDER HOW I CAN MAKE THE PRESENT CONTINUE ON FOR ETERNITY?
I WON'T LET YOU FEEL MISERABLE
I'LL NEVER LOVE ANYONE BUT YOU
YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER KNOWN.
NO ONE COULD EVER HOLD CANDLE TO YOU.
NO ONE WILL EVER MOVE MY HEART AS MUCH AS YOU.
NATALIE... ONCE I GRADUATE UNIVERSITY, LET'S GET MARRIED.
IF YOU WISH, I DON'T MIND EVEN TYING THE KNOT NOW.

So it was true?!
Francis!
Don't look as if you're about to melt with joy.
No Francis! Don't smile at her like that!

That's supposed to be me!
You're not the one! You're not the one who's supposed to be laughing by his side!
Don't look so happy!
I'm the one who's supposed to be loved and live in a life of happiness by Francis' side!
I DON'T MIND DOING WHAT ARE YOU MAKING TODAY?
I BETTER GO AND BUY IT OR ELSE I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE DINNER
OH I ALMOST FORGOT! WE'RE OUT OF WINE
Rustle
ALL THAT PLUS CHEESE AND I'M PRETTY MUCH IN HEAVEN!
WELL THEN, I BETTER GET BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!
AND HOW DOES A WATER CRESS SPROUT SALAD SOUND TO YOU?
I'M MAKING THE SOLE FILLET AND THE POTATO CREAM SOUP THAT YOU LIKE SO MUCH

She looks so happy...
I hate her so much...
If only she'd never existed, I'm sure Francis would've loved me.
OK! I'LL MAKE THE SALAD ONCE I GET BACK!
COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN, OKAY?
Rustle
MILLY...?

FRANCIS IS JUST OUT SHOPPING FOR SOME GROCERIES RIGHT NOW.
BUT HE'LL BE BACK VERY SOON
OH, DID YOU COME TO VISIT BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER BREAK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING COLD TO DRINK?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
You know that I love Francis don't you?!
Just because you're loved doesn't give you the right to look so happy
What a horrible, horrible woman!
Don't smile at me!
If only she could just disappear
YOU LOOK PALE
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?

That's right! If only she would just disappear
MILLFY
WHAT'S WRONG...?
TENSE
Francis will love me- I'm sure of it!

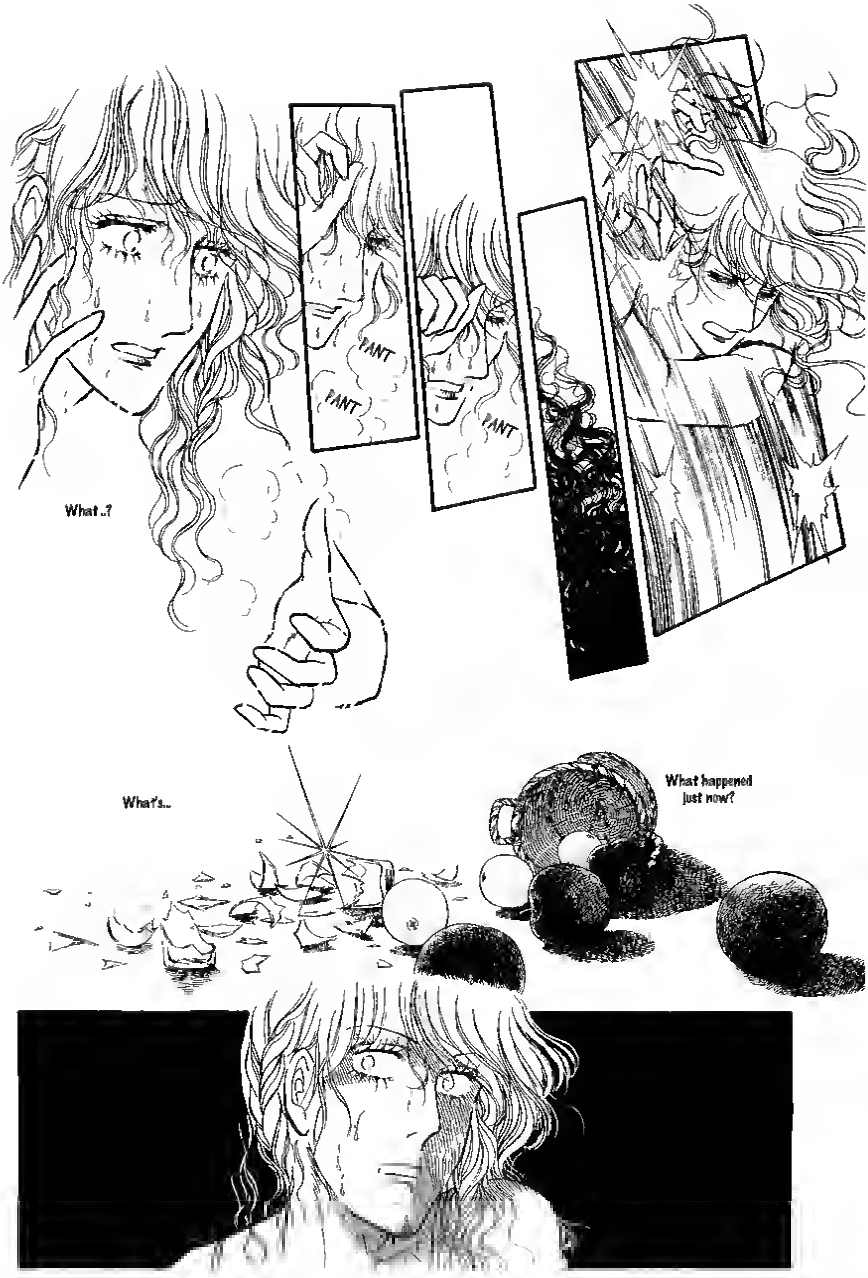
SWISH
What?!
If only she'd disappear!
What are you doing?!
MILLFY!
MILLFY, NO!
PLEASE STOP!

JShoujo Scans

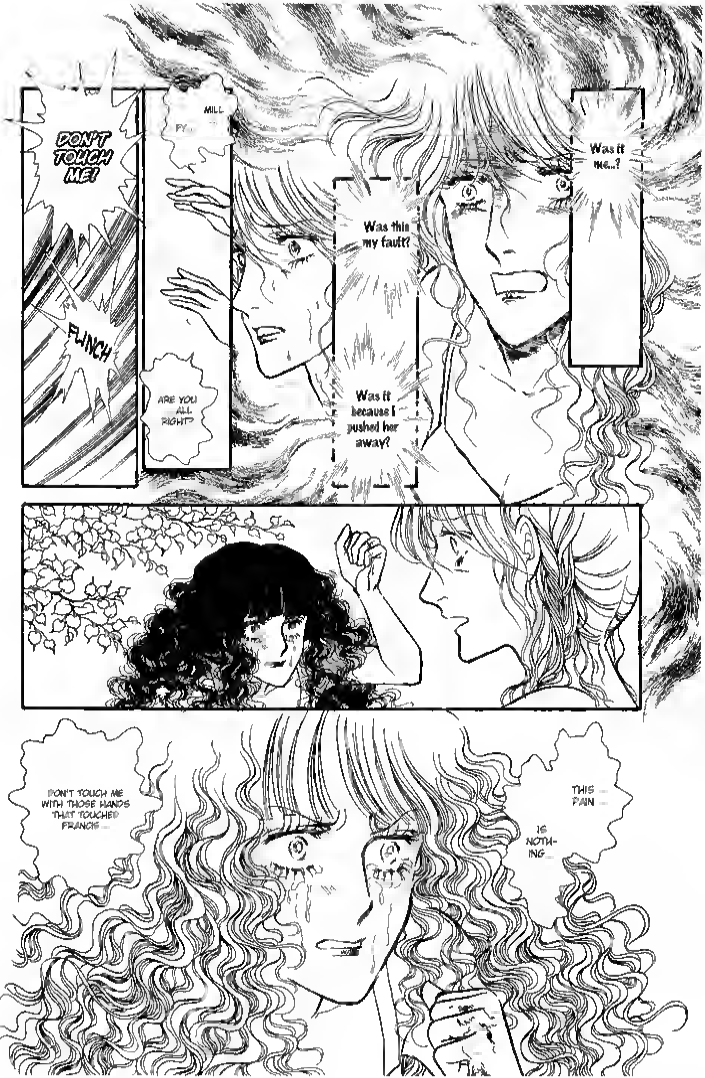
Suna no Shiro

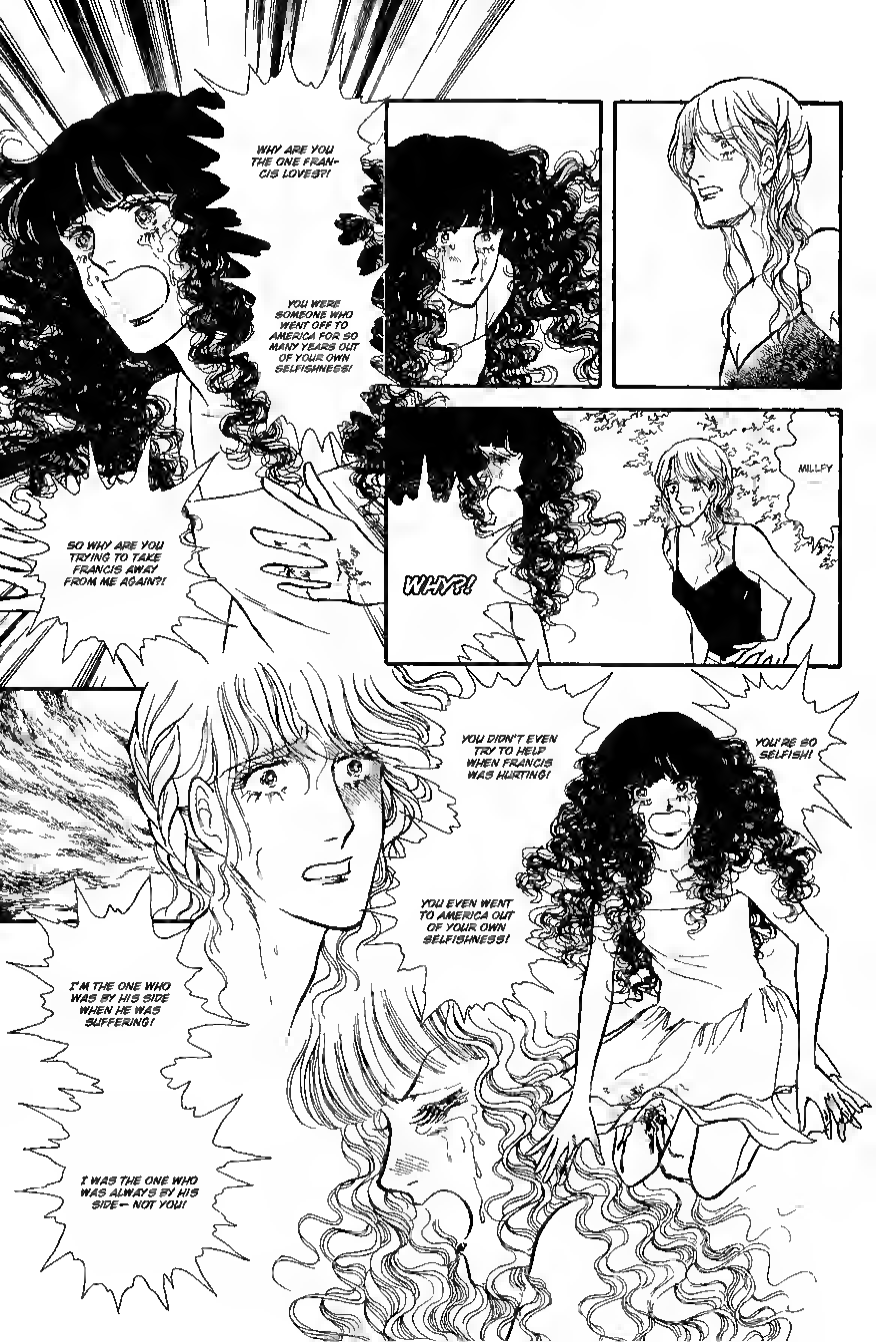
Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
CreateMagic
Cleaner
Vonne
4 **Typesetter** 30
GreatChoco
QCer
Monmedel & Vally

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
STOP THIS MILLFY!
MILLFY!
AYAAAAAAAA!


What..?
PANT
PANT
PANT
What's...
What happened just now?

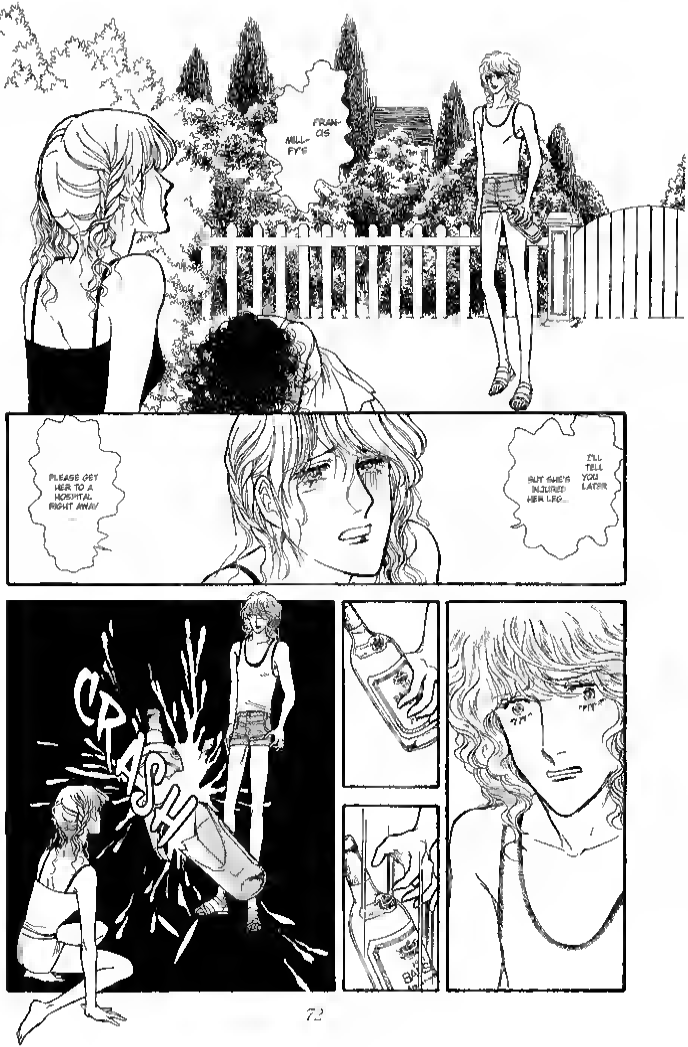
Uuu
Ah
Uuu
Tense
Ah
Uuu
Her leg!

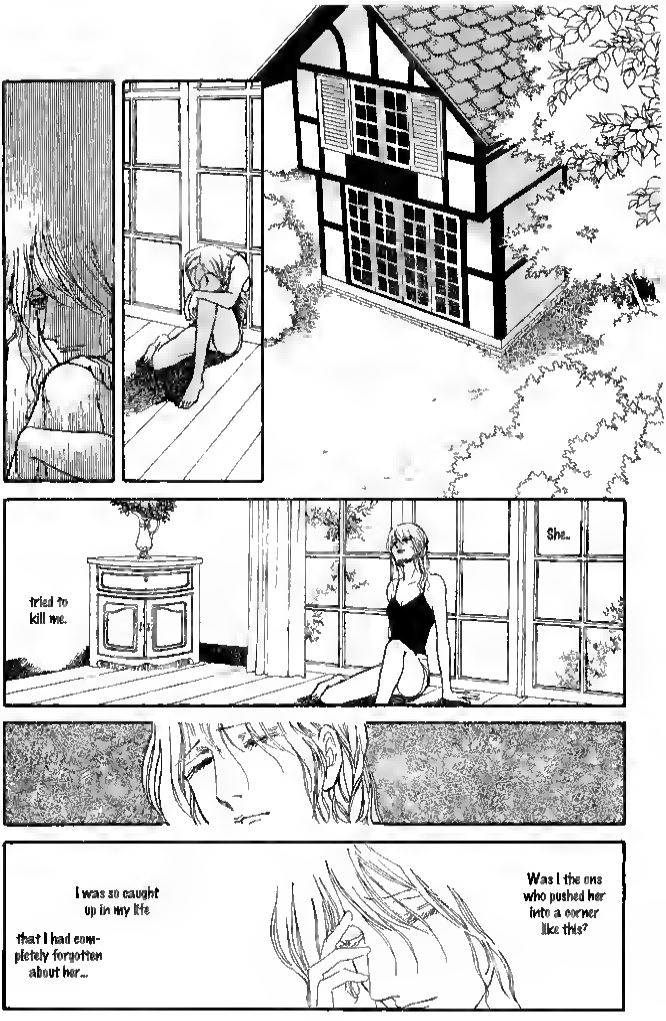

DON'T TOUCH ME!
MILL
FI
FLINCH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Was this my fault?
Was it because I pushed her away?
Was it me...?
DON'T TOUCH ME WITH THOSE HANDS THAT TOUCHED FRANCIS —
THIS PAIN —
IS NOTHING —

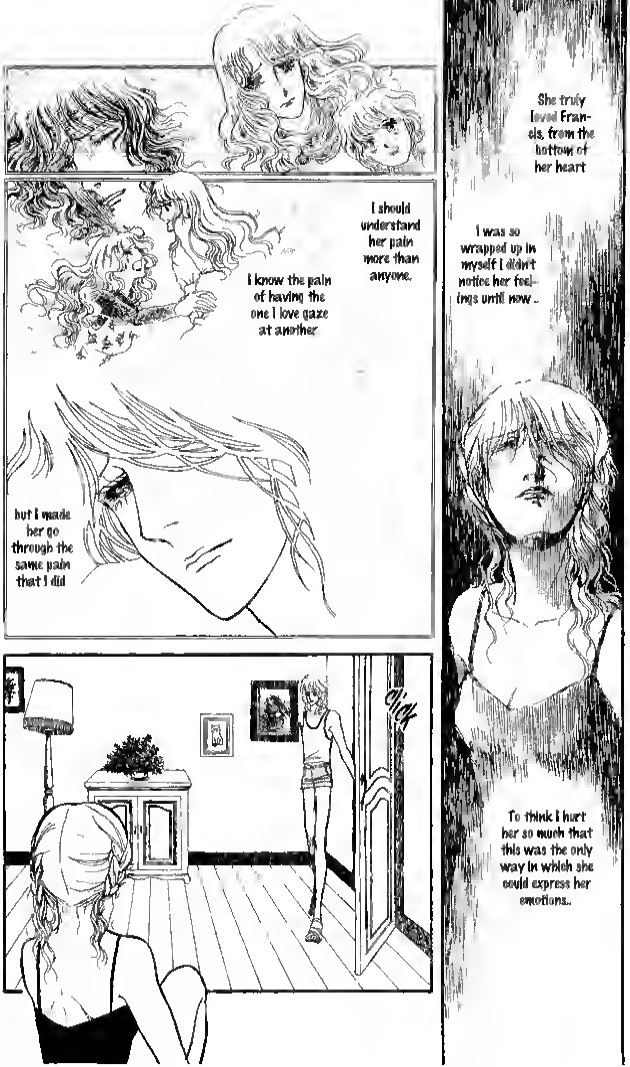

WHY ARE YOU THE ONE FRANCIS LOVES?!
YOU WERE SOMEONE WHO WENT OFF TO AMERICA FOR SO MANY YEARS OUT OF YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS!
SO WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO TAKE FRANCIS AWAY FROM ME AGAIN?!
MILLFY
WHY?!
YOU'RE SO SELFISH!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO HELP WHEN FRANCIS WAS HURTING!
YOU EVEN WENT TO AMERICA OUT OF YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS!
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS BY HIS SIDE WHEN HE WAS SUFFERING!
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS BY HIS SIDE— NOT YOU!

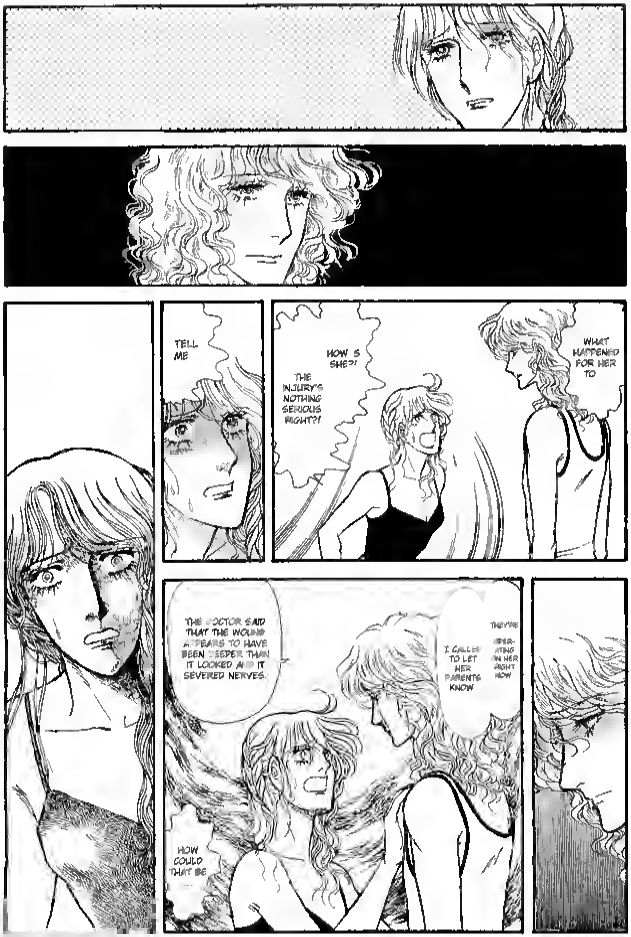
I HATE YOU...
YOU ALWAYS MAKE IT OFF AS IF YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S HURTING—
BUT DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE THE REASON FOR FRANCIS SUFFERING?!
YOU SHOULD JUST DROP DEAD!
I'LL NEVER STOP HATING YOU!
Uuu...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS MAKING HIM SUFFER FOR SO LONG!

NATALIE I'M BACK WITH THE WINE!
WHAT
HAVE I NED...?

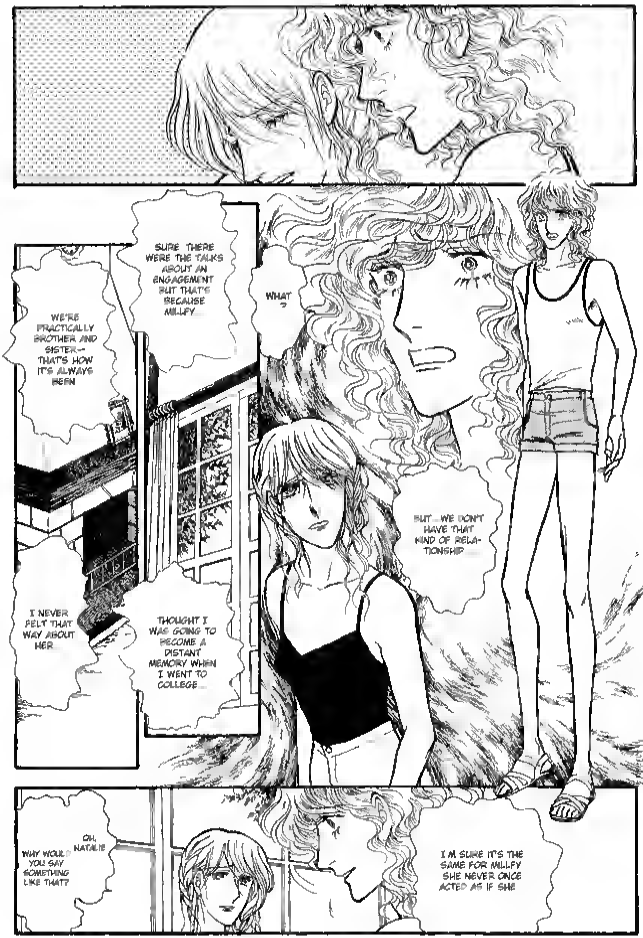

FRANCIS
HELL-
FY'E
PLEASE GET HER TO A HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY!
BUT SHE'S INJURED HERE LIKE...
I'LL TELL YOU LATER
CRASH
"PIN"
"PIN"


She..
tried to kill me.
I was so caught up in my life
that I had completely forgotten about her...
Was I the one who pushed her into a corner like this?


She truly loved Francis, from the bottom of her heart
I was so wrapped up in myself I didn't notice her feelings until now..
To think I hurt her so much that this was the only way in which she could express her emotions..
I should understand her pain more than anyone.
I know the pain of having the one I love gaze at another
but I made her go through the same pain that I did
click


WHAT HAPPENED FOR HER TO
HOW IS SHE?!
THE INJURY'S NOTHING SERIOUS, RIGHT?!
TELL ME
THEY'RE OPERATING ON HER RIGHT NOW
I CALLED TO LET HER PARENTS KNOW
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT THE WOUND APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEEPER THAN IT LOOKED AND IT SEVERED NERVES.
HOW COULD THAT BE...

NATALIE!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
B-BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN, RIGHT?!
SHE'LL BE FINE. WON'T SHE?! SHE'LL BE ABLE TO FULLY RECOVER, WON'T SHE?!
WHY, NATALIE?!
WHY WOULD MILLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
THAT CAN'T BE!
BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU!!
SUDDENLY CAME AT ME WITH A PARING KNIFE
M-MILLY...
SO I PUSHED HER AWAY AND THAT'S WHEN
SHE SWUNG AT ME
BUT WHY

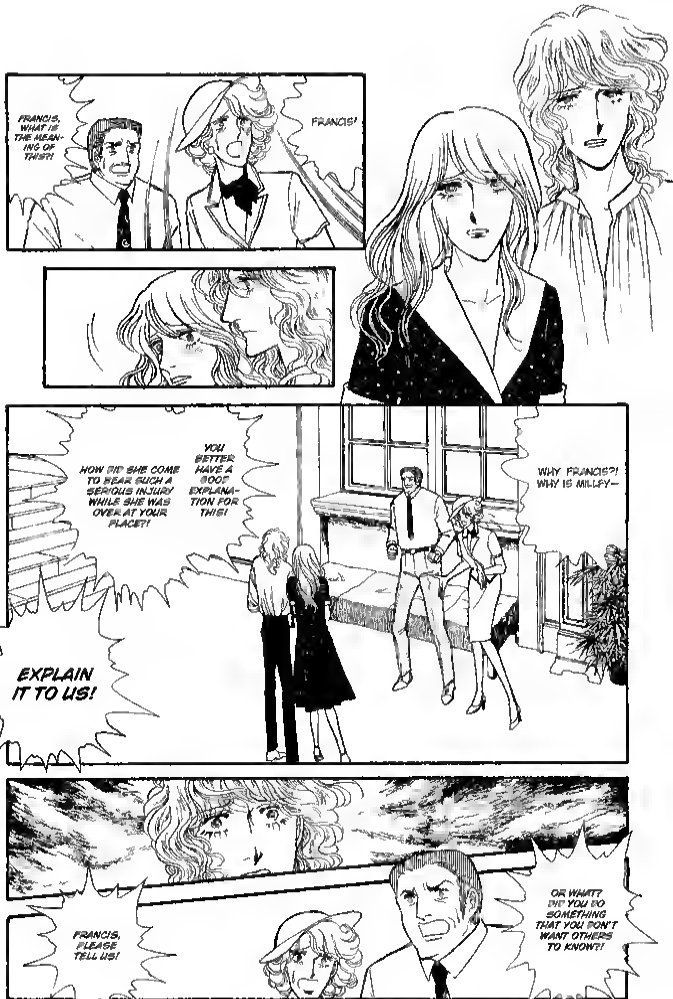

WHAT ?
SURE THERE WERE THE TALKS ABOUT AN ENGAGEMENT BUT THAT'S BECAUSE MILLY...
WE'RE PRACTICALLY BROTHER AND SISTER -- THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN
BUT... WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP
I NEVER FELT THAT WAY ABOUT HER...
THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BECOME A DISTANT MEMORY WHEN I WENT TO COLLEGE...
OH, NATALIE
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I'M SURE IT'S THE SAME FOR MILLY! SHE NEVER ONCE ACTED AS IF SHE

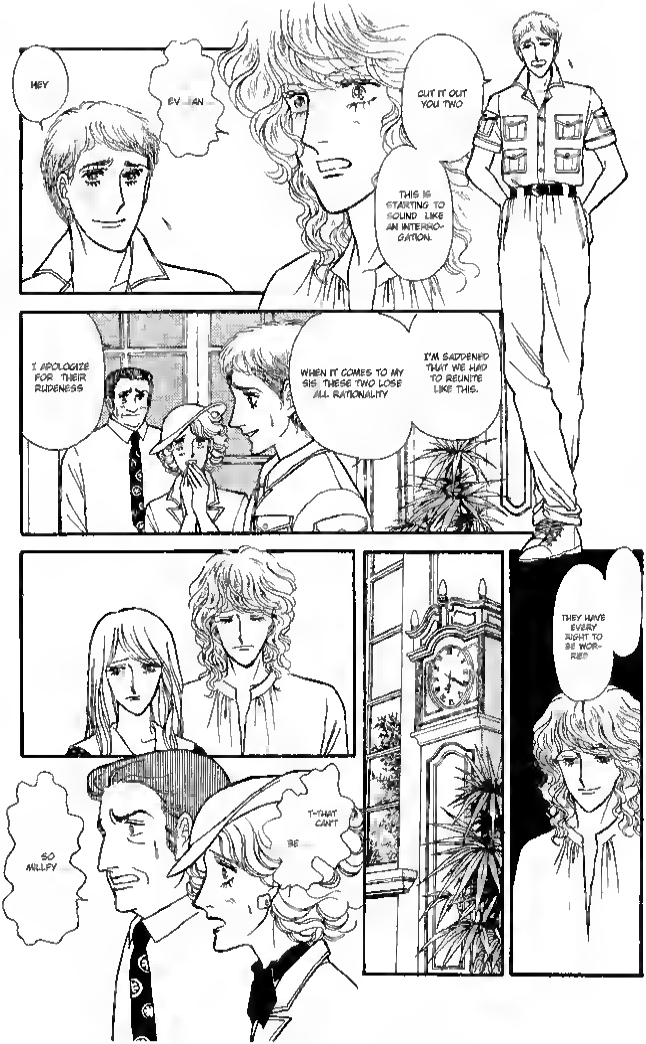
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
BUT I
WOULD IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IF MILLFY ASKED YOU TO LOVE HER?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY SHE STAYED SILENT
IF ONLY I'D NEVER EXISTED. PERHAPS YOU WOULD'VE LOVED MILLFY
TO MILLFY— THAT'S WHAT I AM TO HER.
SHE KNEW THAT THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD STAY BY YOUR SIDE WAS IF SHE PLAYED THE PART OF YOUR SISTER.

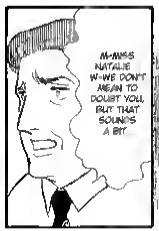
I'M THE SOURCE OF HER SUFFERING
NO ONE CAN BLAME HER FOR HATING ME
I'M SURE EVERYONE OTHER THAN YOU ARE AWARE
OF HER FEELINGS
I MIGHT'VE DONE THE SAME THING
I'M MOST CERTAINLY SURE I WOULD'VE FELT THE SAME WAY
WHILE WE WERE DRUNK ON OUR HAPPINESS SHE WAS SUFFERING — ALL ALONE
IF ONLY I'D KNOWN, I—
I—IF

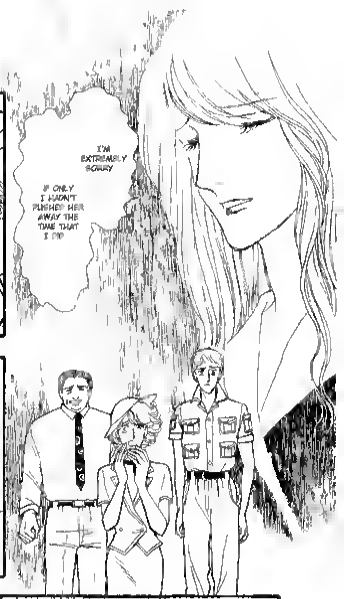
Francis...
Why can't all of us be happy..
WHY CAN'T ALL OF US BE HAPPY...
WE'RE THE ONES WHO MADE HER SUFFER SO...
FRANCIS! WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN FOR HER.
WHY WOULD MILLEY
OH... HOW HOR RIBLE...
SOB
SOB

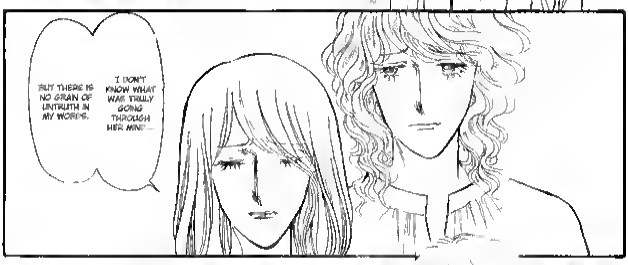
TRY TO CALM DOWN
I HEARD IN RECENT MEDICINE THEY'RE ABLE TO REPAIR EVEN SEVERED NERVES.
BUT, DARLING
HER INJURY IS SERIOUS!
"TRY TO CALM DOWN"?
SO ARE YOU SAYING THIS DOESN'T FAZE YOU...?
HOW HOW COULD YOU
S-STOP TALKING FOOLISH-NESS
THIS COMES TO ME AS MUCH OF A SHOCK AS ANYONE!
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
THIS IS MY PRE-CIOUS DAUGHTER. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE TO
AT ANY RATE WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF WE'RE LEFT IN THE DARK
HE ONLY TOLD US TO COME HERE AS SOON AS WE COULD— AND THIS IS WHAT WAS WAITING FOR US!
AND FRANCIS FRANCIS! HE ONLY CALLED— WHY ISN'T HE HERE?


FRANCIS, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
FRANCIS!
HOW DID SHE COME TO WEAR SUCH A SERIOUS INJURY WHILE SHE WAS OVER AT YOUR PLACE?!
YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS!
WHY, FRANCIS?! WHY IS MILLY—
EXPLAIN IT TO US!
FRANCIS, PLEASE TELL US!
OR WHAT?! IN? YOU DO SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T WANT OTHERS TO KNOW?!


HEY
EV...AN
CUT IT OUT YOU TWO
THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE AN INTERROGATION.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THEIR RUDENESS
WHEN IT COMES TO MY SIS THESE TWO LOSE ALL RATIONALITY
I'M SADDENED THAT WE HAD TO REUNITE LIKE THIS.
THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE WORRIED
SO MILLFY
T-THAT CAN'T BE

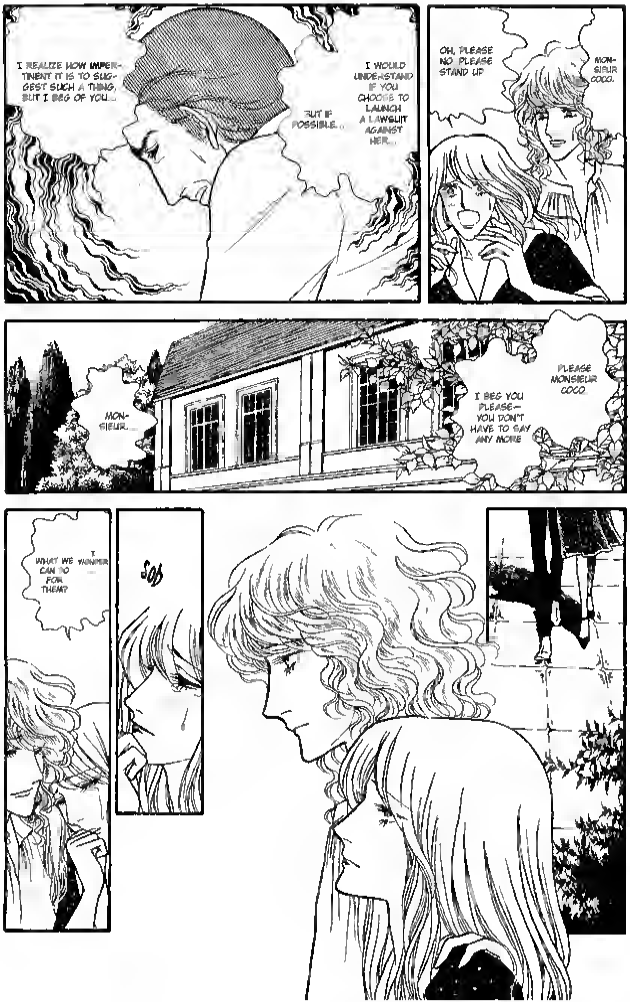

M-MISS NATALIE W-WE DON'T MEAN TO DOUBT YOU, BUT THAT SOUNDS A BIT...


I'M EXTREMELY SORRY
IF ONLY I HADN'T PUSHED HER AWAY THE TIME THAT I DID


I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS TRULY GOING THROUGH HER MIND...
BUT THERE IS NO GRAIN OF UNTRUTH IN MY WORDS.

MOTHER!
MOTHER, STOP IT!
IT'S ALL A LIE, ISN'T IT?! TELL ME THAT IT'S NOT TRUE!
WHY WOULD SHE DO SOMETHING SO HORRIFIC
IT CAN'T BE
It can't be!
NOOOO!
DO YOU WANT TO AGITATE THE PATIENTS?!
WHAT IS ALL THIS NOISE?! THIS IS A HOSPITAL! PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN!
MILLFY!
MOTHER!
PLEASE STEP OUTSIDE TO SETTLE DOWN!
WAHHH
WAHHH

FATHER, I AM GOING TO TAKE HER OUTSIDE FOR A BIT. I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU
Y-YES...
MILLEY... MILLEY...
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT... BUT I THINK IT REALLY DID HAPPEN AS SHE SAID
I CAN'T THINK OF A REASON WHY MISS NATALIE WOULD LIE...
I HAVE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW SORRY WE ARE
PLEASE FORGIVE HER!

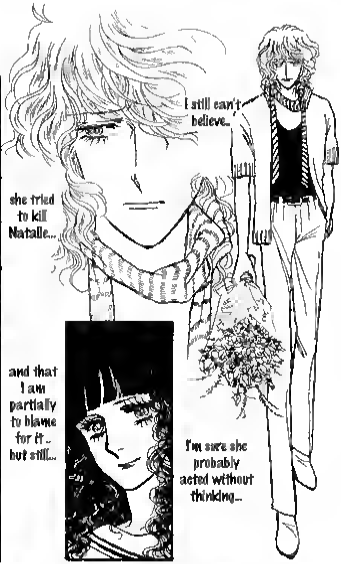

I REALIZE HOW IMPERTINENT IT IS TO SUGGEST SUCH A THING, BUT I BEG OF YOU...
...BUT IF POSSIBLE...
I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU CHOOSE TO LAUNCH A LAWSUIT AGAINST HER...
OH, PLEASE NO. PLEASE STAND UP
MONSIEUR COCO.
MONSIEUR...
I BEG YOU PLEASE— YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY MORE
PLEASE MONSIEUR COCO.
WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THEM?
I WONDER
SOB

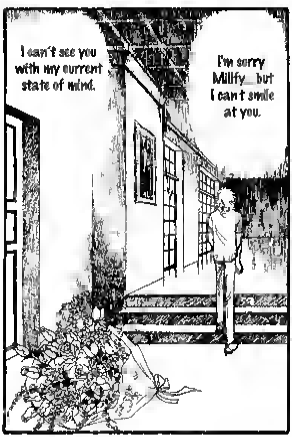
NATALIE,
PLEASE DON'T CRY
THIS MUST BE... SOME FORM OF PUNISHMENT...
BY US BEING TOGETHER... WE'RE HURTING ALL THOSE AROUND US...
PUNISHMENT FOR OUR HAPPINESS...
EVERYTHING WILL TIDE OVER WITH TIME
I'M SURE MILLFINE'S LEG WILL GET BETTER WITH REHABILITATION.
SO NATALIE
PLEASE DON'T CRY—
NATALIE EVERYTHING NEGATIVE WILL FADE IF WE JUST HOLD ON FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

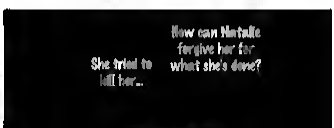
YOU CAN'T TELL AT ALL.
THOUGH.
I GUESS WE SHOULD'VE SEEN IT COMING
WELL
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MICHELE TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY? HE SAID HE WAS AFRAID I MIGHT EAT HIM, WHAT WITH MY APPETITE!
BUT MY APPETITE'S HAS GROWN LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE!
I'LL BEGIN TO SHOW SOON.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
It really makes me proud to have been born as a woman
AND IT'S A FEELING UNLIKE ANY OTHER.
IT MAKES ME REALIZE WHAT IT MEANS TO CARRY A BABY
I FEEL LIKE I'VE GROWN AS A PERSON OVERNIGHT
EVERY DAY LITTLE BY LITTLE MY BODY'S CHANGING
IT'S A STRANGE FEELING
TO THINK THAT I HAVE ANOTHER PERSON GROWING INSIDE ME

YOU ARE HIS BELOVED THAT HE'S WATCHED OVER FOR SO LONG, AFTER ALL!
EVEN THOUGH ROBERT WAS PREPARED FOR IT HE DID SEEM QUITE SHOCKED BY IT!
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR RUN-OF-THE MILL SHOCK YOU KNOW!
YOU LOOK HAPPY
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU!
I AM HAPPY
YOU HAVE PULLED ALL OF US THIS WAY AND THAT WITH YOUR ANTICS OVER THE YEARS!
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND IT IF YOU DON'T BECOME THE HAPPIEST OUT OF ALL OF US!
I CAN'T SAY WE'RE WITHOUT PROBLEMS
BUT EVERYTHING'S GOING WELL WITH ME AND FRANCIS.

If Natalie hadn't pushed her away...
If she hadn't... right now - she might be the one...


I still can't believe...
she tried to kill Natalie...
and that I am partially to blame for it... but still...
I'm sure she probably acted without thinking...


I can't see you with my current state of mind.
I'm sorry Millfy... but I can't smile at you.


How can Natalie forgive her for what she's done?
She tried to kill her...

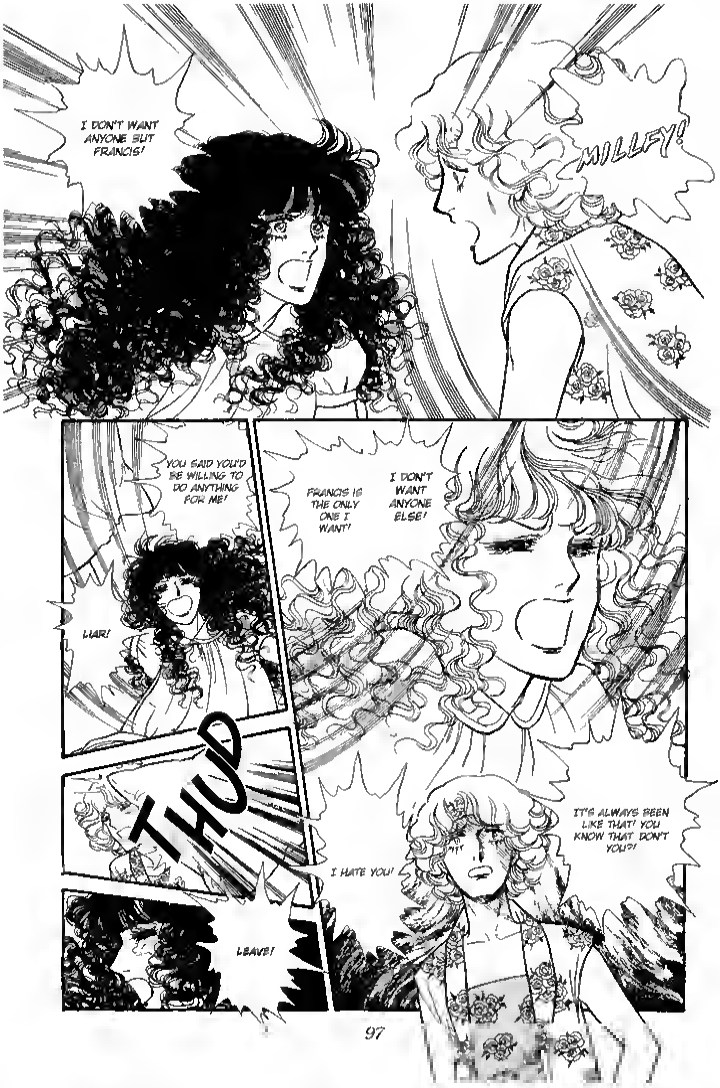
HE'S AT THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW TO SEE HER?
AND SO...
WHO WOULD WANT TO VISIT SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO STEAL THE WOMAN HE LOVES?!
WELL OF COURSE HE WAS RELUCTANT!
HE SEEMED RELUCTANT TO GO THOUGH...
YES, I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER IF I DIDN'T GO WITH HIM.
WHY DON'T YOU TREASURE IT MORE?
YOU SUFFERED AND SUFFERED AND FINALLY YOU OBTAINED YOUR HAPPINESS!
THINK BACK TO ALL THAT YOU'VE ENDURED IN THE PAST!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
YOU'RE TOO NICE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
BUT ELAINE SHE DID THAT BECAUSE WE PUSHED HER INTO A CORNER.
WHAT YOU DID WAS LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BURDEN YOURSELF WITH GUILT OVER MELLY'S WOUNDS
DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOU'VE HAD TO PUT UP WITH OVER THE YEARS?!

YOU ARE NOT GETTING THE POINT HERE!
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THAT A REALITY!
WHAT SHE WANTS IS FRANCIS!
IF YOU TREASURE THE HAPPINESS YOU HAVE NOW— STAY AWAY FROM HER!
BUT ANYTHING ELSE IN MY POWER TO DO SO I'D LIKE TO DO FOR HER.
I CAN'T GIVE UP FRANCIS NO MATTER WHAT
I WANT HER BODY AND SOUL TO HEAL — THE SOONER THE BETTER.
I UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FEELS
PLEASE TRY TO GET HER TO AT LEAST EAT A LITTLE OF THIS
THE SUPPLEMENT INJECTIONS DON'T OFFER REAL NUTRITION.
IF SHE KEEPS THIS UP SHE'LL NEVER HEAL.
WHY ?
MILLY

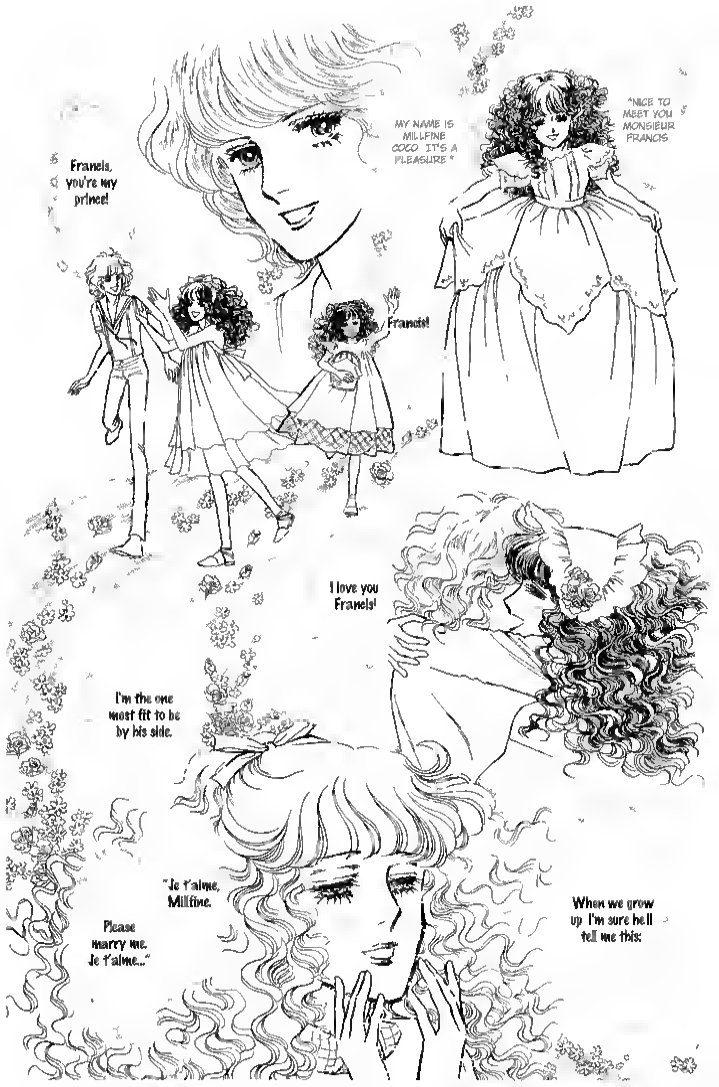
SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY. YOU NEED TO HAVE PROPER NUTRITION!
YOU HEARD WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID DIDN'T YOU? HE SAID HE'S SURE YOUR LEG WILL HEAL
OF COURSE, IT WON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT BUT WITH TIME IT'LL HEAL!
I'LL DO ANY-THING! WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?
AT THIS RATE— YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
I DON'T WANT ANY...
SO HAVE A BIT OF THIS FOOD!
PLEASE— EVEN JUST A LITTLE IS FINE
TELL ME— WHAT IS IT THAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET YOU TO EAT?!
WHY?! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER SUFFER SO?!

LUUUU
UUU
UUU
FY
MILL
I'LL EAT
COME
IS
IF FRAN
GIS
I DON'T
CARE
WHAT
ANYONE
THINKS
IF FRANCIS
ISN'T HERE
I WON'T EAT
ANYTHING
WH-

YOU HAVE TO GIVE HIM UP! YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
AFTER ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE TO MISS NATALIE—
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT ?
THEY'RE ALREADY LIVING TOGETHER!
YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING YOUR SUFFERING BY GOING ON LIKE THIS!
BUT THERE'S NO HELPING IT! THEY'RE IN LOVE!
I WAS JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU WERE THAT MISS NATALIE AND FRANCIS GOT TOGETHER.
OKAY? MILLY? SO PLEASE JUST GIVE HIM UP
YOU HAVE SO MANY OTHER BOYS YOU COULD—
NO


I DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT FRANCIS!
MILLFY!
YOU SAID YOU'D BE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR ME!
FRANCIS IS THE ONLY ONE I WANT!
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE!
LIAR!
THUD
I HATE YOU!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?!
LEAVE!

WAHHH
I HATE EVERYONE!
YOU AND MOMMY AND BROTHER, AND EVERYONE!
W-
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHY WON'T ANYONE UNDERSTAND THAT?!
I LOVE FRANCIS! I DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT HIM!
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW I FEEL!

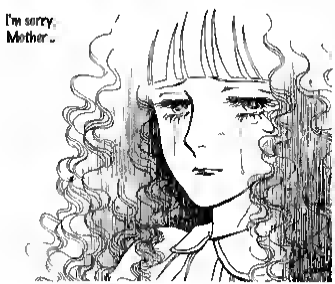

Francis, you're my prince!
MY NAME IS MILLFINE COCO IT'S A PLEASURE "
"NICE TO MEET YOU MONSIEUR FRANCIS
Francis!
I love you Francis!
I'm the one most fit to be by his side.
"Je t'aime, Millfine.
Please marry me. Je t'aime..."
When we grow up I'm sure he'll tell me this:

"JE T'AIME"

but I love Francis.
I love him more than life itself
I can't think of anyone but him.

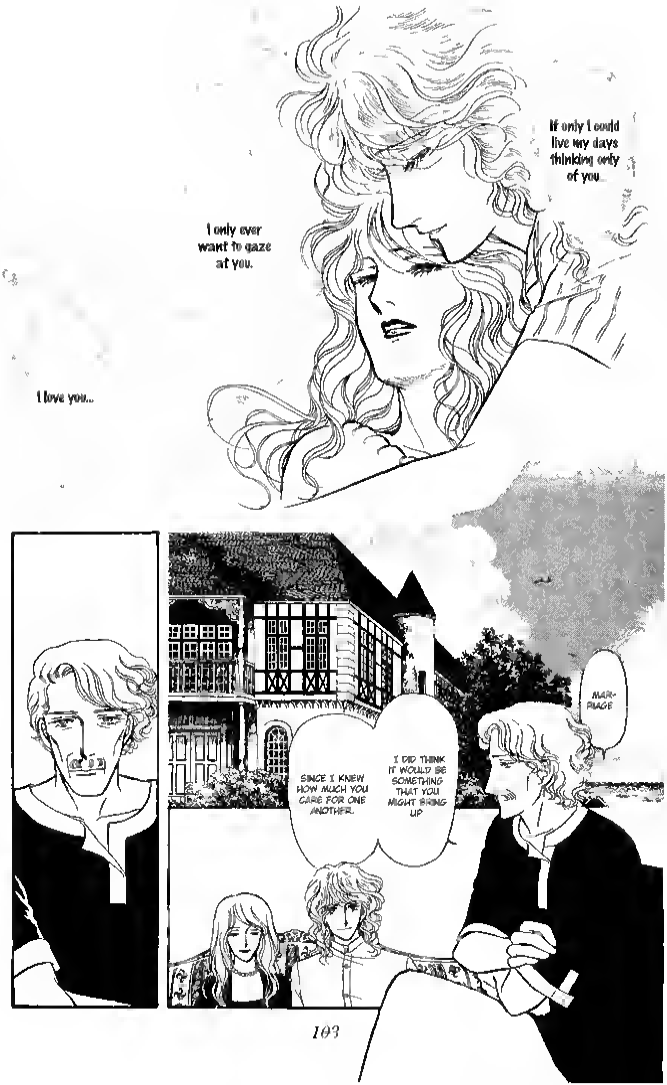
I know that I'm only causing you trouble..
I'm sorry..
I'm so sorry..

It was just a dream..


I'm sorry, Mother..

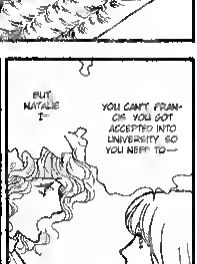
God..
Why?
Despite all that's happened, why is it that I still love Francis?
Why do you make me continue to be in a love that causes me to suffer so...
HOW DID IT GO?
FLIP
I JUST LEFT HER FLOWERS
OH
FRANCIS
I KNOW
BUT I JUST COULDN'T

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? SMILE AT HER AND ASK HER HOW SHE'S DOING?
AND THEN WHAT?
HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO SEE HER DESPITE ALL THAT?
NO MATTER THE REASON, SHE TRIED TO STAB YOU.
NATALIE
WE'RE GOING OVER TO VAUGHE'S PLACE TOMORROW, AREN'T WE?
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT MILLY ANY MORE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE — WE SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH MORE
WHY?
YOU'RE THE MORE UNREASONABLE ONE.
WHAT AN UNKIND WAY OF PUTTING IT.
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING NATALIE?
HOW CAN YOU FORGIVE HER?
ELAINE ASKED ME THE SAME THING
YOU'RE RIGHT


If only I could live my days thinking only of you...
I only ever want to gaze at you.
I love you...
MAR-RIAGE
I DID THINK IT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT YOU MIGHT BRING UP
SINCE I KNEW HOW MUCH YOU CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL QUIT UNIVERSITY AND START WORKING
VAUGHE I DON'T INTEND ON WAITING THAT LONG...
ALTHOUGH I DON'T INTEND ON OBJECTING HOW ABOUT THIS? YOU CAN GET MARRIED AFTER YOU GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH OPPOSITION FROM THOSE AROUND ME
YOU ARE THE LINEAL SUCCESSOR, AFTER ALL.
I PLAN ON HAVING YOU SUCCEED THE LANGRIDGE FAMILY LINE
HOLD ON JUST A MOMENT THERE FRANCIS


BUT, NATALIE I—
YOU CAN'T FRANCIS. YOU GOT ACCEPTED INTO UNIVERSITY, SO YOU NEED TO—

YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME AS IT IS!
VAUGHE I DON'T NEED ANYTHING MORE—
YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO SEE NATALIE WHENEVER YOU'D LIKE
HOW ABOUT YOU GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN YOU HAD PREVIOUSLY OF ATTENDING SCHOOL FROM FELHAN'S PLACE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE?

OR IS IT THAT YOU'RE WORRIED THAT YOUR LOVE MIGHT COOL OFF IF YOU LIVE APART FROM NATALIE FOR FOUR YEARS?
COULD YOU TAKE THIS ON AS THE ONLY REQUEST FROM YOUR GRANDFATHER?
THIS IS MY WISH

I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY THIS BUT
B-BUT JUST BECAUSE THAT'S SO I DON'T PLAN ON WAITING—

NOT AT ALL!
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS SHOULD PASS. MY FEELINGS WILL NEVER CHANGE!
SMILES
IS THAT RIGHT?

THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW TO OFFER IS LOVE.
NO MATTER HOW ONE THINKS ABOUT IT NATALIE WILL BE THE ONE TO SUPPORT YOU FINANCIALLY
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO MARRY RIGHT NOW WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT DAILY LIFE?

YOU MIGHT BE SATISFIED WITH SUCH A LIFE BUT NATALIE IS A FINE AUTHOR WHO IS RESPECTED BY EVERYONE AROUND HER.
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO WORK WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
IT'LL STILL BE MANY YEARS YET BEFORE YOU CAN LIVE OFF YOUR ART ALONE
THAT'S WHAT I INTENDED TO DO FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ANYWAY
I-I'LL WORK
AND WHEN MY PAINTINGS ARE SOLD
BLUSHES

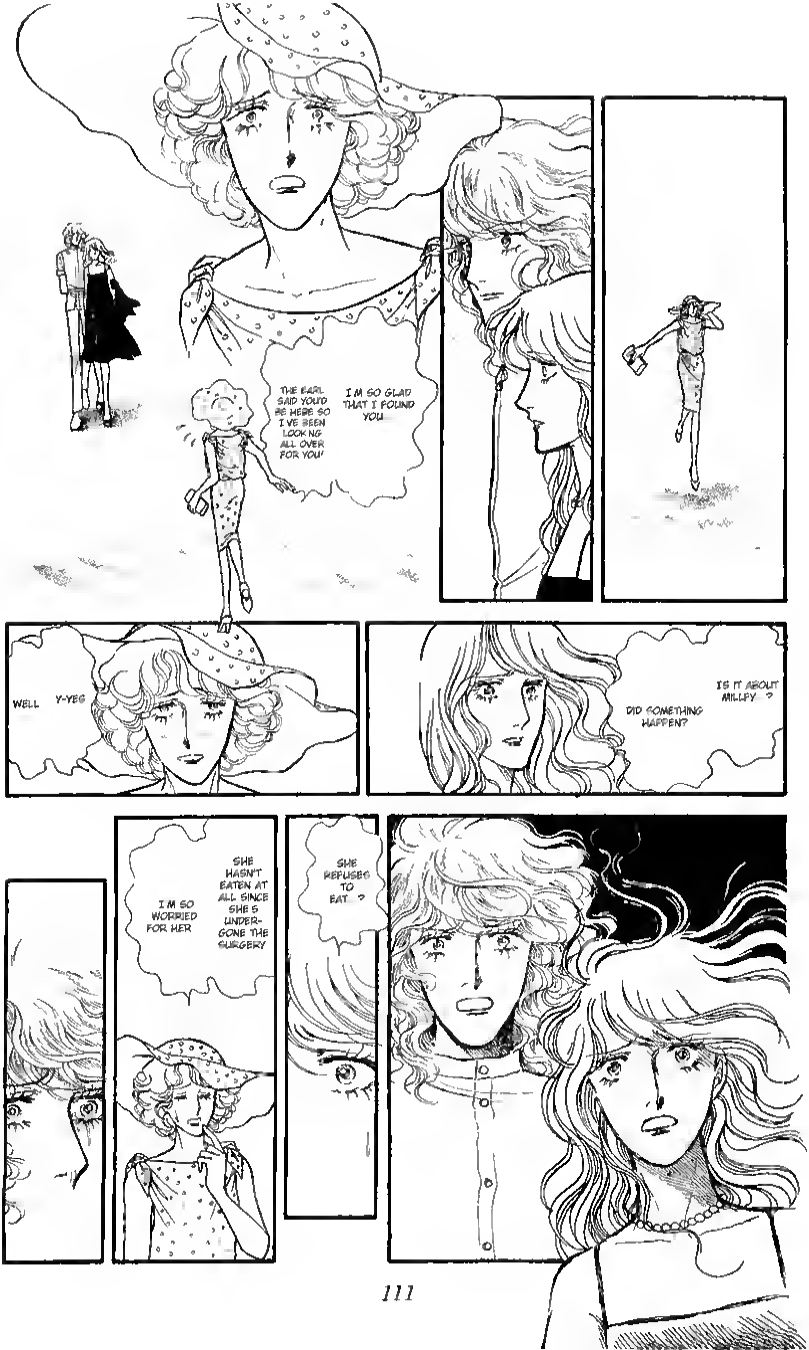
FRANCIS
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ME BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO GO TO UNIVERSITY
YOUR LIFE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
WOULD DOING YOUR BEST IN YOUR STUDIES FOR FOUR YEARS BE SUCH A DETOUR?
I ALSO THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HER THAT YOU ESTABLISH YOURSELF FIRST
YOU NEED TO HAVE EVERY-ONE ACCEPT YOU AS HER HUSBAND
YOU NEED TO THINK OF THIS NOT ONLY WITH REGARDS TO PROFESSION BUT AS A PERSON AS WELL.
I THINK UNI-VERSITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THAT
THIS IS THE TIME IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW WHEN YOU ARE ABSORBING EVERYTHING AND TURNING THOSE INTO PLUSES
I DON'T WANT TO PUT YOUR TALENTS TO WASTE JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL PRES-SURED TO MAKE A LIVING
I WOULD BE OVERJOYED TO MARRY YOU
IF YOU STILL WISH TO BE WITH ME THEN,
WHEN YOU GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

I hate to admit it, but Vaughe is right
It's obvious that those around Natalie would say that if we marry now
DO YOU REMEMBER
HOW WE OFTEN WENT TO THE BEACH WHEN YOU WERE STILL A CHILD, FRANCIS?
LIFE IS FULL OF MYSTERIES
YOU WERE SUCH A SMALL BOY AND NOW YOU'VE BECOME SO GROWN UP.
AND WE FELL IN LOVE...

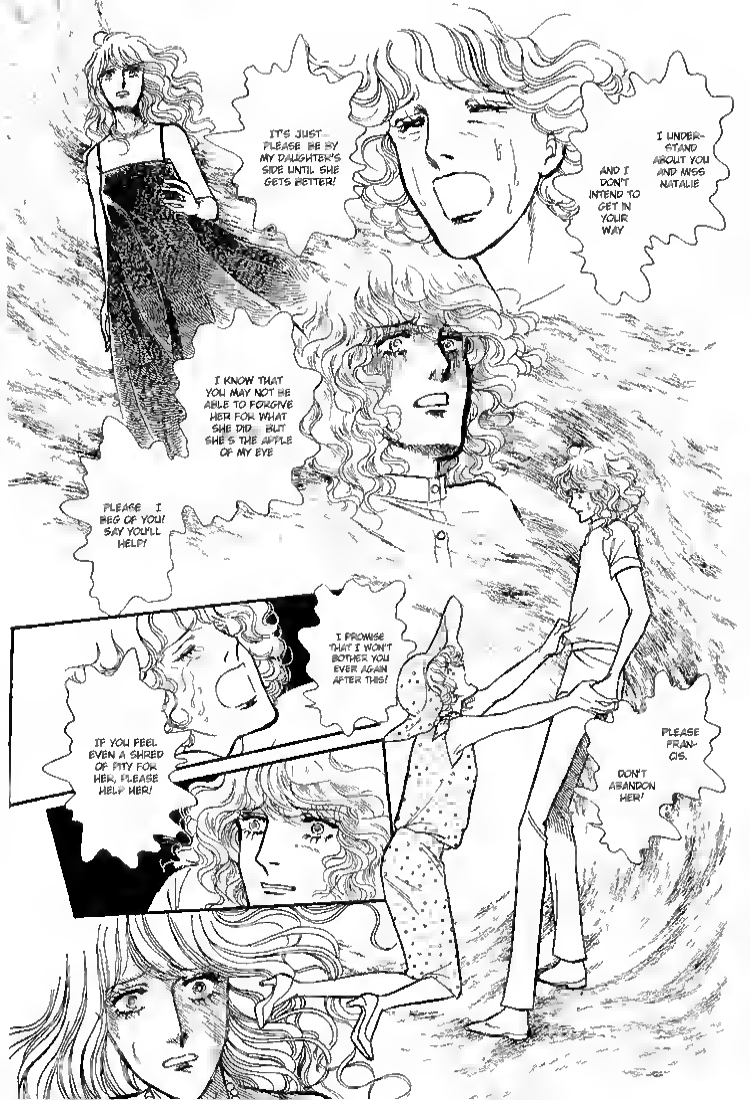
I'M STILL SUCH A KID
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING UNTIL VALIGHE POINTED IT OUT TO ME
I WAS JUST SO FOCUSED ON ONE THING
IT'S BECAUSE I'M LIKE THIS
THAT YOU HAVE TO PUT ON SUCH A GROWN-UP FACE, ISN'T IT?
I ONLY TRY TO SHOVE MY LOVE ONTO YOU WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE...
AT THIS RATE YOU'LL GET TIRED OF ME SOON ENOUGH
AND YOU'LL WANT A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BREATHE
I LOVE YOU FRANCIS
DON'T BE LIKE THAT
I'M THE ONE FILLED WITH DOUBTS.
YOU'RE YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED
I OFTEN WONDER IF I AM GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU

I'm worried that you might fall for someone else,
and that you might end up leaving me one day
The more I love, the more afraid I become of the day when I lose you.
I'm afraid of your youth
I CAN'T EVEN FATHOM
BEING WITH ANYONE BUT YOU
IF IT MEANS BEING ABLE TO LIVE WITH YOU IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY YEARS I HAVE TO WAIT—
FOUR YEARS IS NOTHING
AS LONG AS YOU LOVE ME FRANCIS.
To think you would kiss me and whisper words of love to me—
You don't know how much I admire you—
and of how many times I've dreamt of a day like this—

WELL
THAT'S
HMM.. I WAS WONDERING IF I SAID TOO MUCH
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HIS EXPRESSION.
WHAT'S WITH THAT SIGH?
SIGH
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT MILLEY?
HMM?
NO. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I JUST HOPE FRANCIS CAN BECOME A MAN CAPABLE OF COVERING FOR HER WEAKNESS
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THE PHYSICIAN IN CHARGE OF HER EVER AGAIN
AS IT IS NOW I'M AFRAID FOR THEM
IF THEY MARRY NOW THOUGH NOTHING GOOD'LL COME OUT OF IT
SOMETHING HE SHOULD'VE PREPARED HIMSELF FOR IF HE'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT MARRYING NATALIE
THAT'S THE SILVER
I'VE BEEN HAVING
EVEN IF FRANCIS IS OKAY WITH ALL THAT TALK, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR NATALIE.
JUST BECAUSE SHE WANTED THE TITLE OF A COUNTESS.
PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT SHE SEDUCED A BOY SIXTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN HER


THE EARL SAID YOU'D BE HERE SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
I'M SO GLAD THAT I FOUND YOU...
WELL... Y-YES
IS IT ABOUT MILLFY...?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I'M SO WORRIED FOR HER
SHE HASN'T EATEN AT ALL SINCE SHE'S UNDERGONE THE SURGERY
SHE REFUSES TO EAT...?

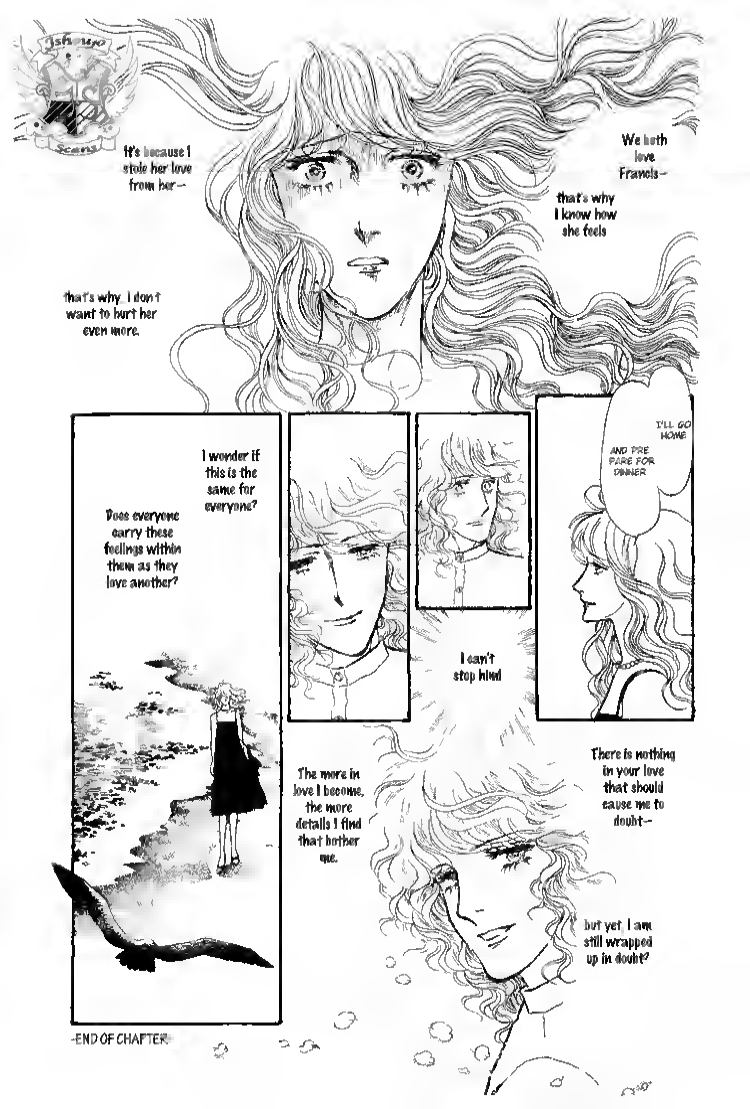
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE WILL TO GET BETTER.
BUT THEY SAID IF THIS CONTINUES...EVEN IF THERE IS A CHANCE OF HER LEG HEALING IT WON'T...
HER BODY'S ALRIGHT BECAUSE OF THE SUPPLEMENTS THEY ADMINISTER
IF YOU CAN'T THEN EVEN UNTIL SHE GETS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL IS FINE!
PLEASE STAY BY HER SIDE— AT LEAST UNTIL HER LEG GETS BETTER!
FRANCIS, I BEG OF YOU! SHE NEEDS YOU!
U...!
HOW COULD THIS...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF HELPING HER!
I KNOW IT'S WRONG OF ME TO ASK THIS OF YOU, BUT IT HAS TO BE YOU!
AT THIS RATE SHE MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO WALK ANOTHER STEP FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE!


I UNDERSTAND ABOUT YOU AND MISS NATALIE
AND I DON'T INTEND TO GET IN YOUR WAY
IT'S JUST... PLEASE BE BY MY DAUGHTER'S SIDE UNTIL SHE GETS BETTER!
I KNOW THAT YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FORGIVE HER FOR WHAT SHE DID... BUT SHE'S THE APPLE OF MY EYE
PLEASE... I BEG OF YOU! SAY YOU'LL HELP!
I PROMISE THAT I WON'T BOTHER YOU EVER AGAIN AFTER THIS!
IF YOU FEEL EVEN A SHRED OF PITY FOR HER, PLEASE HELP HER!
PLEASE FRANCIS.
DON'T ABANDON HER!

SO JUST GO
YOU'LL PROBABLY REGRET IT OTHER WISE
GO TO HER
AT LEAST UNTIL HER LEG GETS BETTER.
I KNOW BUT PLEASE
I CAN'T RETURN HER FEEL-INGS—
I DON'T LOVE MILLY
SO PLEASE JUST SEE HER!
IT ONLY NEEDS TO BE FOR A SHORT WHILE

I'LL BE BACK SOON
I'LL GO FOR NOW
WAIT FOR ME
What a passionate girl
What a passionate girl she is..
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THAT A REALITY!
STAY AWAY FROM HER!
We're being sucked into her passion...
we might end up being manipulated ever which way by her...
YOU SHOULD JUST DROP DEAD!
I'LL NEVER STOP HATING YOU!
What should I do?
What should I..
Should I stop him from leaving right here, right now?
Just as Elaine said, are we better off not getting involved with her?

Are we going to live the rest of our lives
feeling guilty because of this girl?
and treat her as if she's a stranger?
And then are we supposed to become happy
Should I turn my back
on the girl who's been hurt because of me?
It's just I don't want for her to suffer any more than she already has.
It's not that I don't feel anything
It's not that I've forgiven her.


Ishinomori Scans
It's because I stole her love from her—
We both love Francis—
that's why I know how she feels
that's why I don't want to hurt her even more.
I wonder if this is the same for everyone?
Does everyone carry these feelings within them as they love another?
I'LL GO HOME
AND I'LL BE PURE FOR DINNER
I can't stop him!
The more in love I become, the more details I find that bother me.
There is nothing in your love that should cause me to doubt—
but yet, I am still wrapped up in doubt?
-END OF CHAPTER-

JShoujo Scans

Suna no Shiro

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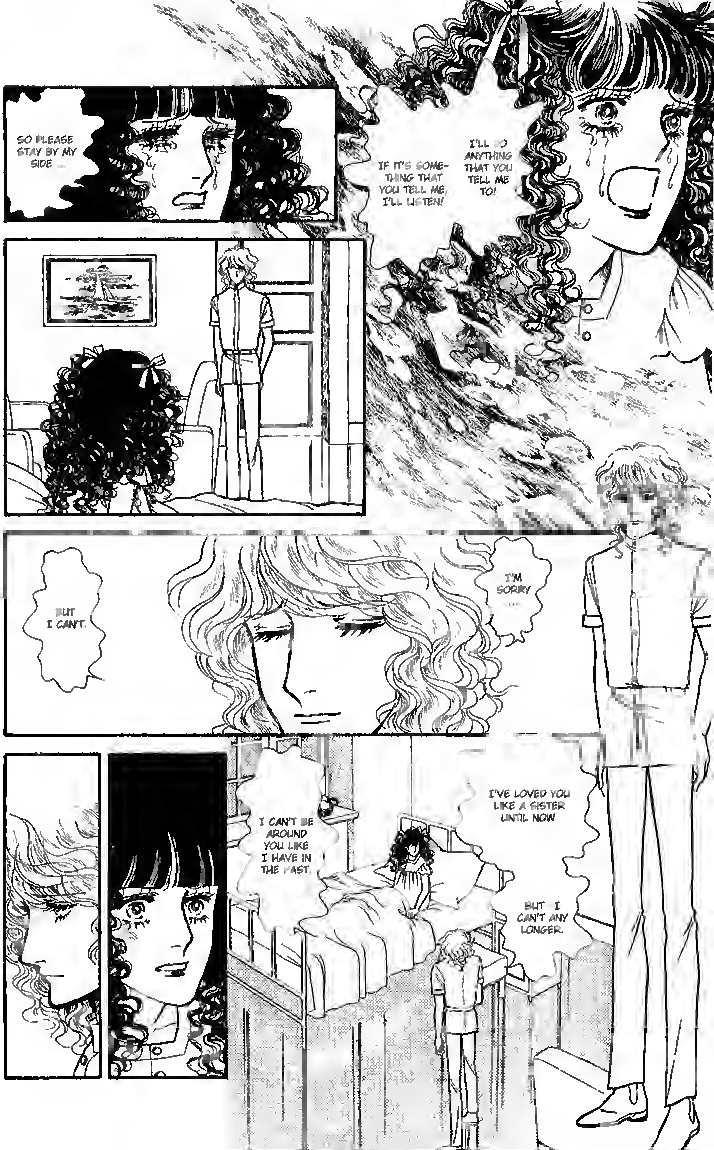
4 **Typesetter** 31
GreatChoco
QCer
Monmedel & Vally

FRANCIS!
THANK YOU, MOTHER!
I'M SO HAPPY!
SO HOW ABOUT IT? DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
SO IF YOU NEED ANY-THING JUST RING THE BELL ALL RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO GO AND HAVE A TALK WITH THE DOCTOR...
WELL THEN, MILLY—
I'M SO HAPPY! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME AND SEE ME!
COME OVER HERE FRANCIS

I WAS JUST SO FRUS-TRATED...
I JUST WANTED TO SCARE HER A BIT THAT'S ALL
I WASN'T SERIOUSLY TRYING TO DO ANY-THING—
BECAUSE I DID SOME-THING LIKE THAT...?
ARE YOU MAD...
DESPITE THAT YOU NEVER REALIZED MY FEELINGS FOR YOU
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE ONLY EVER LOVED YOU!
PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
CIS
FRAN
IF YOU TELL ME THAT I SHOULDN'T DO THAT ANYMORE I WON'T!
DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED YOUR MOTHER IS ABOUT YOU?
MILLY PLEASE DON'T DO A FOOLISH THING LIKE REFUSING TO TAKE YOUR MEALS.


SO PLEASE STAY BY MY SIDE
IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU TELL ME, I'LL LISTEN!
I'LL DO ANYTHING THAT YOU TELL ME TO!
BUT I CAN'T.
I'M SORRY...
I'VE LOVED YOU LIKE A SISTER UNTIL NOW
I CAN'T BE AROUND YOU LIKE I HAVE IN THE PAST.
BUT I CAN'T ANY LONGER.

I'VE LOVED NATALIE SINCE EVEN BEFORE I MET YOU.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS.
I WON'T COME HERE AGAIN
I'M SORRY
I HOPE YOUR LEG GETS BETTER SOON.
CRACK

DON'T GOOO!
FRAN-CIS!
NO,
GYAAAAA—!
AHHH! AHHH!
YOU FOOL! YOUR LEG!
DON'T MOVE!
I'LL GO AND CALL FOR THE DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY!

DO YOU HEAR ME?!
JUST STAY THERE AND DON'T MOVE!
MILL FY

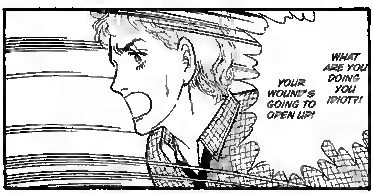
N...O
YOU CAN'T GO
LET... GO...
OF MY LEG...
PLEASE STAY BY MY SIDE
I BEG OF YOU... FRAN-CIS
IT DOESN'T MATTE.. WHO YOU LOVE...
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T LOVE ME...
JUST PLEASE DON'T ABANDON ME

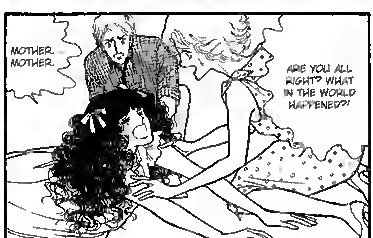
STOP IT—
THAT'S ENOUGH!
ENOUGH ALREADY!

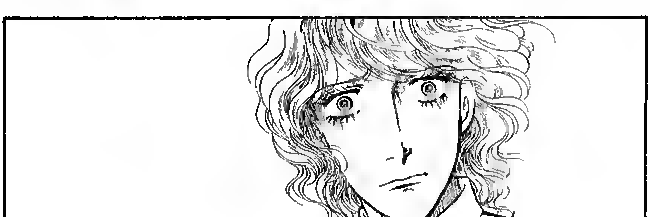
CLICK
MILLY— YOUR BROTHER'S HERE TO SEE YOU—

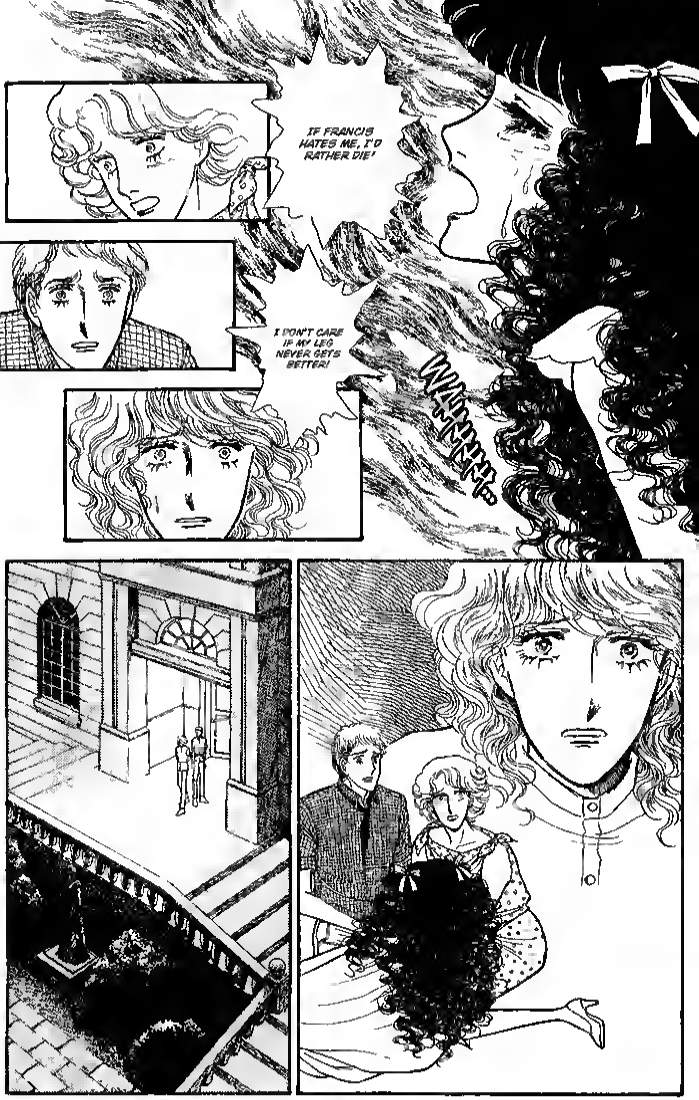
MILLFY!
WHAT HAPPENED, MILLFY?!
KYAAAA

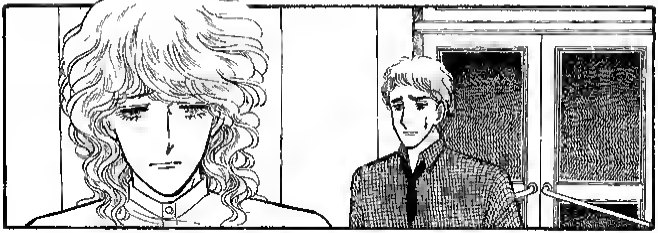
FRANCIS SAID THAT HE WON'T COME HERE ANYMORE
HE SAID THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE


WHAT ARE YOU DOING YOU IDIOT?!
YOUR WOUND'S GOING TO OPEN UP!


MOTHER. MOTHER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?!

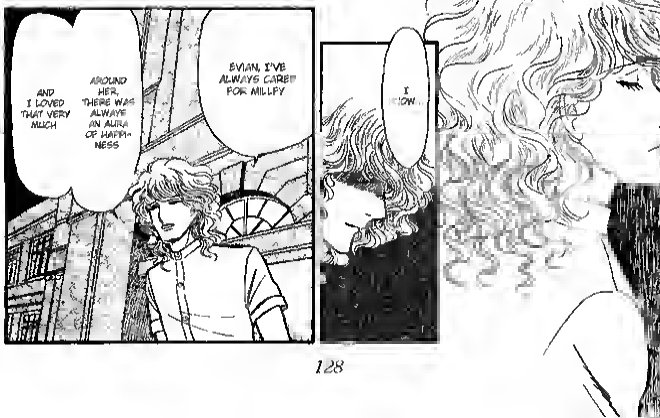



IF FRANCIS HATES ME, I'D RATHER DIE!
I DON'T CARE IF MY LEG NEVER GETS BETTER!
WAHHH!!

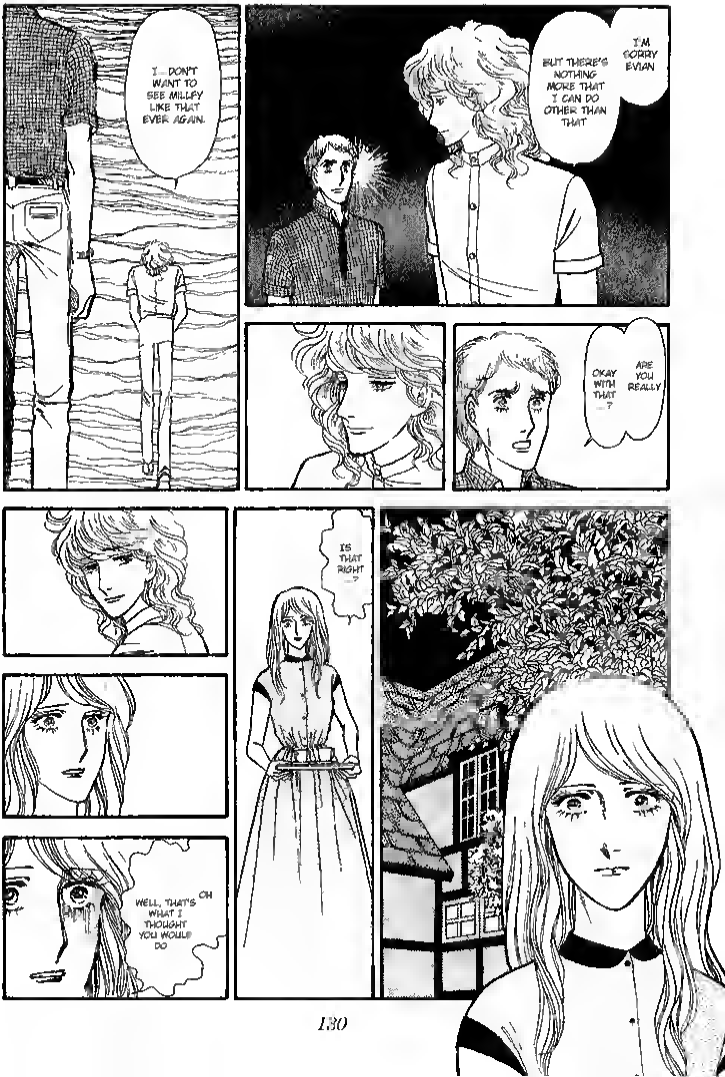


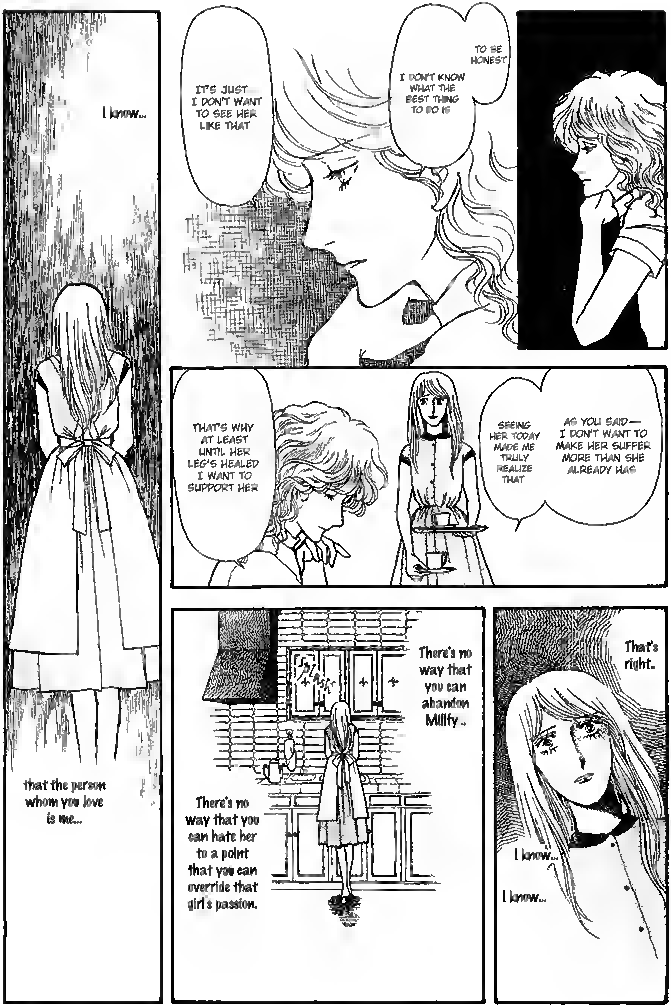
I'M SORRY
SOMETHING MUST'VE SNAPPED INSIDE OF HER WHEN SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT YOU AND MISS NATALIE ...
BUT TO THINK SHE WOULD JUST PUSH ALL HER FEELINGS ONTO YOU WITHOUT A REGARD FOR HOW SHE'S TROUBLING YOU!

BUT... I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THIS:
SHE IS SERIOUS ABOUT HER LOVE FOR YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
THAT'S WHY... PLEASE, IF YOU CAN, DON'T HATE HER.

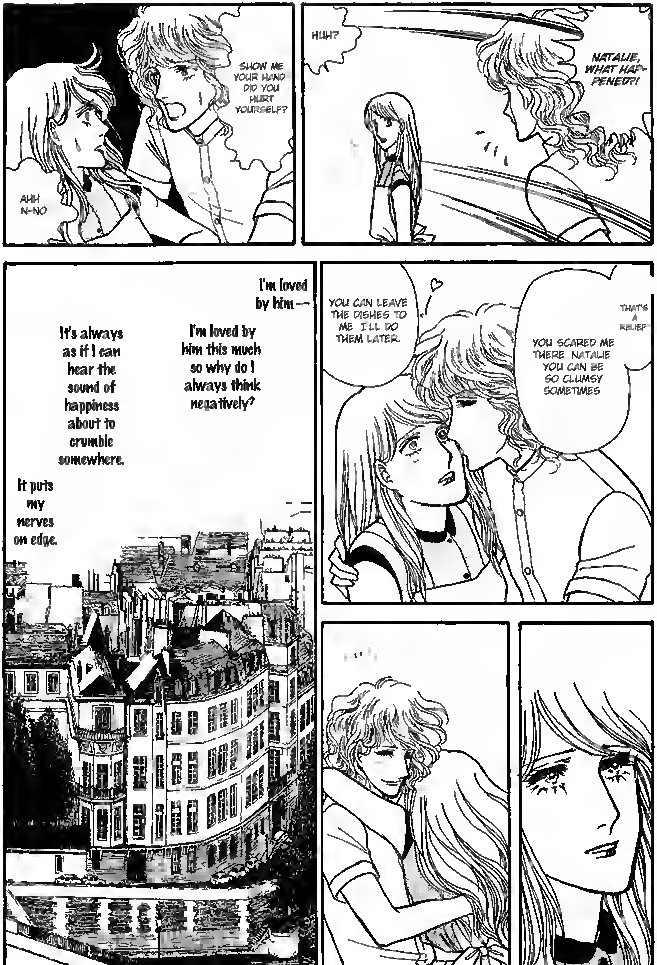

I KNOW.
SVIAN, I'VE ALWAYS CARED FOR MILLY
AROUND HER, THERE WAS ALWAYS AN AURA OF HAPPINESS
AND I LOVED THAT VERY MUCH

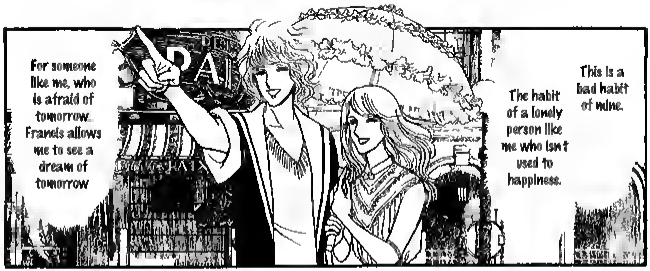
And for someone like me who grew up surrounded by adults even her selfishness was one that I admired.
The blissful princess who grew up being protected by a loving family.
She was the young girl who lived in the dream world that I admired so much.
MILLFY WAS THE ONE WHO WAS BY MY SIDE AT A TIME WHEN I WAS SUFFERING THE MOST
AND SHE ALLOWED ME TO SEE A DREAM COUNTLESS TIMES
I WAS ALWAYS OVERCOME BY A FEELING THAT TICKLED ME
BUT I CAN WATCH OVER HER FOR AS LONG AS SHE WISHES
I CAN'T RETURN HER FEELINGS
I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER FORGIVE HER FOR WHAT SHE DID
I DIDN'T PLAN ON SEEING HER EVER AGAIN
BUT I CAN'T EVEN SHAKE OFF THE HAND THAT'S REACHING OUT FOR ME
I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO HATE MILLFY


I... DON'T WANT TO SEE MILLY LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN.
I'M SORRY EVAN
BUT THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAT I CAN DO OTHER THAN THAT
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT ...?
IS THAT RIGHT ...?
WELL, THAT'S OH WHAT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD DO

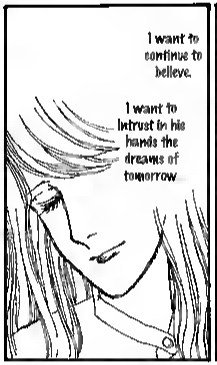

I know...
that the person whom you love is me...
IT'S JUST I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER LIKE THAT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE BEST THING TO DO IS
TO BE HONEST
THAT'S WHY AT LEAST UNTIL HER LEG'S HEALED I WANT TO SUPPORT HER
SEEING HER TODAY MADE ME TRULY REALIZE THAT
AS YOU SAID— I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER SUFFER MORE THAN SHE ALREADY HAS
There's no way that you can hate her to a point that you can override that girl's passion.
There's no way that you can abandon Millfy..
That's right..
I know..
I know...

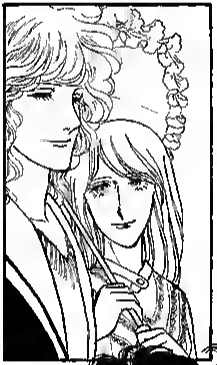
I'm the one who said he should help her
why does my heart feel so heavy..?
Oh no...
In a few days Francis will go off to Paris,
and he'll begin to visit Millfy at the hospital..
and I'll be here waiting for Francis..
Everything will go as she wishes.
I'm afraid...
CRASH!

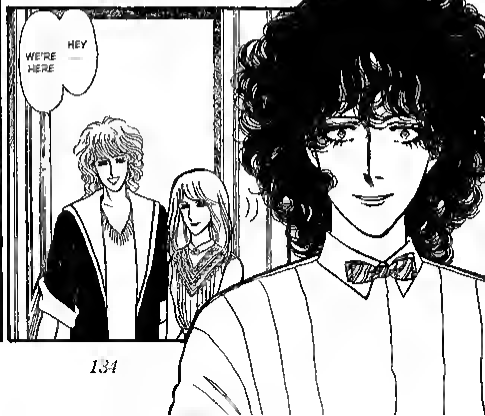

AHH! N-NO
SHOW ME YOUR HAND! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
HUH?
NATALIE, WHAT HAP-PENED?!
I'm loved by him—
It's always as if I can hear the sound of happiness about to crumble somewhere.
I'm loved by him this much so why do I always think negatively?
It puts my nerves on edge.
YOU CAN LEAVE THE DISHES TO ME. I'LL DO THEM LATER.
YOU SCARED ME THERE, NATALIE. YOU CAN BE SO CLUMSY SOMETIMES
THAT'S A RELIEF


For someone like me, who is afraid of tomorrow. Francis allows me to see a dream of tomorrow
The habit of a lonely person like me who isn't used to happiness.
This is a bad habit of mine.

I THOUGHT YOU'D QUIT UNIVERSITY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T LEAVE THE BLISSFUL LIFE YOU'VE BEEN LEADING
OTHER THAN FOR YOUR LUGGAGE I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP FROM YOU
SORRY I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CALL


I want to continue to believe.
I want to intrust in his hands the dreams of tomorrow



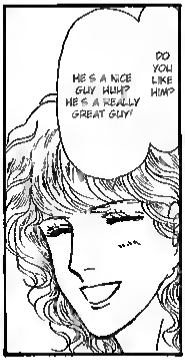

HEY
WE'RE HERE

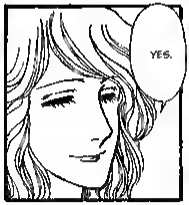
WELL... WHAT'S THE USE IN ARGUING ABOUT IT NOW?
MOREOVER, WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THAT LADY BESIDE YOU?
WELL, I'VE HEARD LOTS ABOUT HER ALREADY
OH, RIGHT YOU'RE MEETING HER FOR THE FIRST TIME
NICE TO MEET YOU, FELIXIAN.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S MY FIRST TIME MEETING YOU EITHER.
Huh...?
DITTO!
I'VE HEARD SO MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT I'VE STARTED TO GET A BIT SICK OF IT. TO BE HONEST!
DON'T HESITATE TO L... OF BY FROM TIME TO TIME.
IF YOU DON'T KEEP A SHARP EYE ON HIM, HE'S QUITE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES, SO YOU NEVER KNOW!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

AHAHA...
STOP IT, FELMAN! NATALIE'S GOING TO TAKE WHAT YOU SAY SERIOUSLY!
A CAFE'S FINE, RIGHT?
THEY'RE ALREADY MAKING BETS AS TO WHO CAN MAKE THE ANGEL BOY FALL FOR THEM.
THE GIRLS FROM UNIVERSITY ARE WAITING FOR YOU WITH A BAITED BREATH

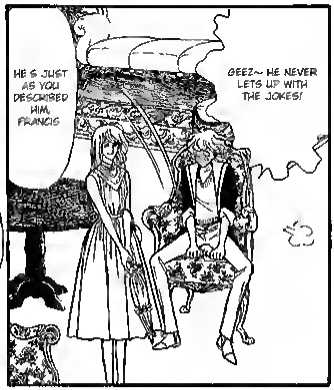
FRANCIS HAS A DOUBLE BED AFTER ALL
OH HEY, SAY NOW, WHY DON'T YOU STAY OVER TONIGHT?
SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY IT TO THE VERY LAST BITE
NATALIE, THE DAY HELPER'S COOKING SKILLS ARE FANTASTIC

what was that?
That expression in Felman's eyes that I saw for an instant...


HE'S A NICE GUY, HUH? HE'S A REALLY GREAT GUY!
DO YOU LIKE HIM?


YES.

FELMAN!

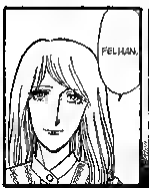

HE'S JUST AS YOU DESCRIBED HIM, FRANCIS
GEEZ~ HE NEVER LETS UP WITH THE JOKES!

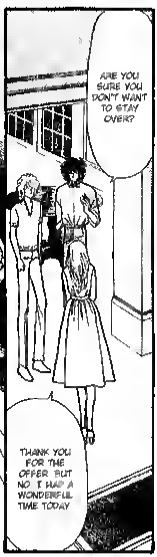
YOU'RE RIGHT
HOW NICE I LOVE WATCHING PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
LOOK! AN ELDERLY COUPLE ARE OUT FOR A WALK
YOU CAN SEE THE SEINE FROM HERE
IT'S A NICE PLACE RIGHT, NATALIE?
AND WE'RE GOING TO LIVE OUR LIVES NESTLING CLOSE TO EACH OTHER.
AS WE SPEND YEARS AND YEARS TOGETHER, EVERYONE AROUND US WILL FORGET OUR AGE DIFFERENCE.
WE'LL BECOME LIKE THEM EVENTUALLY
And when the fall comes you'll sit in your favorite chair and start knitting,
and I'll pick up a brush and begin moving it as I gaze at you
We're going to live years and years...
like that.

I could sense Felhan's kind intentions from the menu that had been prepared days in advance.
THIS IS MY SPECIALITY— TRUCK COOKED IN ORANGE SAUCE
His helper Sho Li Shin really was a wonderful cook.

SOUNDS WONDERFUL

and I was able to see for myself the impact of his influence on Francis
His articulate conversation reflected his sagacity


FELHAN,


ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY OVER?
THANK YOU FOR THE OFFER BUT NO I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME TODAY

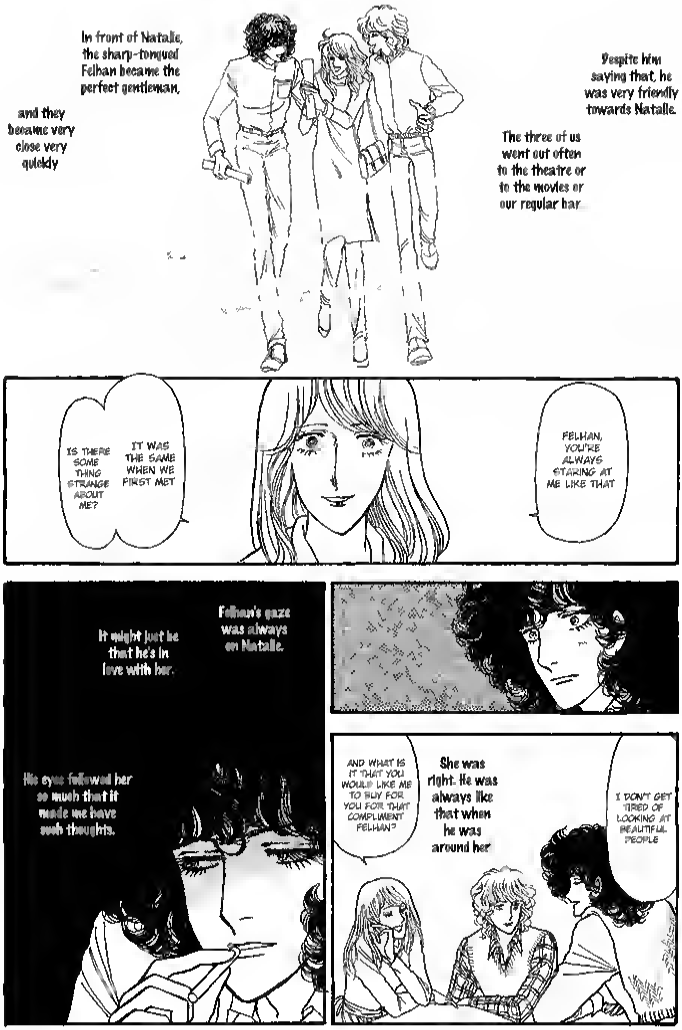
Francis will be spending the upcoming four years with this young man,
and he'll absorb countless precious things.

PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF FRANCIS
I'M TRULY GLAD HE HAS SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN HIS LIFE

SURE
I'M GOING TO SEE HER OFF
I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME
IT'S ALREADY LATE—
I PLAN ON CATCHING A TAXI FROM HERE
HERE'S FINE
SHIFT
"I'm truly glad he has someone like you in his life"—huh?
Talk about a line that gives me no elbowroom.

their families, their lover, their government— they talked about these things passionately.
When they drink, exchange students began to talk of their countries.
Compared to the all-boys Vaughn Roze school,
Sorbonne was a university that was open and free.
It had a mix of women and men from all different walks of life.
Debates where mixed in all sort of ways,
and love bloomed
as couples began to be born.
When I opened the door she gazed up at me with a happy expression.
On the days when I didn't have very many classes, I made my way over to the hospital where Millfy was staying.
and the smile that looked as if she had completely forgotten the events of that day made me a bit flustered and I began to talk about my day.
The young girl who sat before me was the sweet girl that I had known since childhood.
was so charming that it was hard to believe that she was the same girl who attempted to stab Natalie.
Millfy, who listens on in interest

Whenever I bring her up in a conversation, he gets into a bad mood and scowls.
Felhan doesn't seem to like the idea of me visiting Millfy though.
THEY SAID SHE'LL BE STARTING THERAPY TO GET HER LEG WORKING AGAIN.
YOU HAVE A MORE POSITIVE EFFECT ON HER THAN THE DOCTORS. FRANCIS!
When we spend time like this it reminds me of those nostalgic times we used to spend together...
THEY PUT A PLASTER ON MY LEG BECAUSE I MOVED IT FORWARD TOO MUCH
PRACTICING BENDING MY LEG HURTS A LOT, YOU KNOW!
FELHAN! WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
IF YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT NATALIE, I SUGGEST YOU STOP SEEING HER.
SHE MIGHT BE ACTING LIKE A GOOD GIRL IN FRONT OF YOU, BUT THAT'S ALL ON THE SURFACE.
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO ANY TALK ABOUT THAT LITTLE DEVIL.
YOU CAN'T TRUST A WOMAN'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE
SHE'S A GIRL WHO'D GO SO FAR AS TO STEAL THE QUEEN'S DRESS IF SHE WANTED IT
AND BESIDES MILLFY'S ALREADY ACCEPTED THAT NATALIE'S THE PERSON I LOVE
NATALIE WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD TREAT HER KINDLY!


In front of Natalie, the sharp-tongued Felhan became the perfect gentleman,
and they became very close very quickly
Despite him saying that, he was very friendly towards Natalie.
The three of us went out often to the theatre or to the movies or our regular bar.
IS THERE SOME THING STRANGE ABOUT ME?
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN WE FIRST MET
FELHAN, YOU'RE ALWAYS STARING AT ME LIKE THAT
It might just be that he's in love with her.
Felhan's gaze was always on Natalie.
His eyes followed her so much that it made me have such thoughts.
AND WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO BUY FOR YOU FOR THAT COMPLIMENT FELHAN?
She was right. He was always like that when he was around her
I DON'T GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

FELHAN, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY GIRL THAT YOU LIKE?
I ALWAYS FOUND IT STRANGE
IF I WAS A GIRL, THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD'VE LEFT SOMEONE LIKE YOU ALONE
IF YOU WERE A GIRL, HUH?
THAT'S GOOD FOR A LAUGH.
All in all, he's above average in all respects.
STARES
WHAT ?
A clean-cut face and memorable eyes.
WHAT KIND OF ACCUSATION IS THAT?
OH, LAY OFF IT, FRANCIS. STOP JOKING AROUND
SIGH...
IN LOVE WITH NATALIE?!
ME
UNLESS YOU TRY AND SEE THE TRUTH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT
FRANCIS, THAT'S WHAT OUTER APPEARANCES ARE LIKE

MILLFY, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPY!
IT HURTS, SO I DON'T WANT TO
YOU'RE TAKING THINGS TOO LIGHTLY. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL BE TROUBLED LATER ON
HMMM..... I WAS SO HAPPY NOT HAVING TO GO TO SCHOOL TOO!
SEE? IF YOU MOVE THE X HERE
YOU CAN FIGURE OUT THE REST RIGHT?
NO I DON'T WANT TO! IT REALLY DOES HURT!
FRANCIS, COULD YOU TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER?
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING AND PUTTING THE EXERCISE OFF FOR A WHILE NOW!
OH, DON'T SAY THAT, DEAR.
IF YOU DO, THEN I'LL BEAR IT EVEN IF IT HURTS
WILL YOU STAY BY MY SIDE AS I DO IT?
MILLFY, IF YOU DON'T DO YOUR EXERCISES... YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN.
COME ON, STAND UP.

NO! IF FRANCIS ISN'T WITH ME, I DON'T CARE IF I CAN NEVER WALK AGAIN!
NO MILLY.
FRANCIS IS BUSY SO HE CAN'T CONSTANTLY BE BY YOUR SIDE—
REALLY?!
OKAY MILLY.
IN RETURN THOUGH YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO DO IT PROPERLY. ALL RIGHT?
SHE'S ALWAYS TROUBLING ME LIKE THIS.
SHE ONLY EVER LISTENS TO YOU FRANCIS
ALL THE OTHER CHILDREN ARE DOING THE PHYSICAL THERAPY AS WELL
ABOVE ALL, WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS THE WILL TO GET BETTER.
THE EXERCISE IS QUITE SIMPLE, SO IF I CAN LEAVE IT TO YOU, I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP THE OTHER PATIENTS AND I'LL BE A BIG HELP!
YOU'VE BEEN A LOT OF HELP!
SHE HAS BEEN VERY DEFIANT ABOUT WALKING.

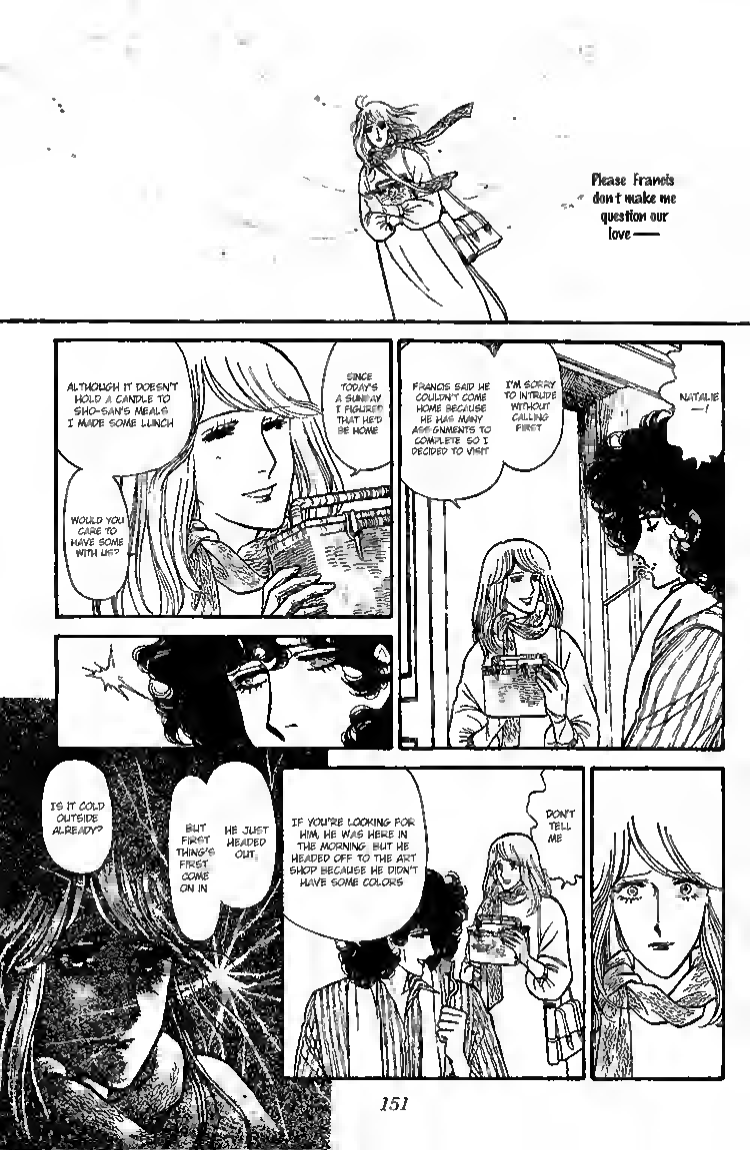
DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND, OKAY? HOLD MY HAND TIGHTLY!
MILLY DO YOUR BEST!
OKAY ARE YOU READY?
WOOOSH
AH!
COULD YOU HOLD MY HAND
NO FRANCIS... IT HURTS!
YOU CAN'T TRY TO WALK USING ONLY YOUR RIGHT LEG.
I'LL TRY MY BEST!
THAT'S RIGHT. ONLY A LITTLE MORE!
I'M SURE YOU'LL DO FINE TODAY!

LET GO OF THE STRENGTH IN YOUR HAND
THAT'S IT MILLFY
worried
worried
YOU CAN WALK!
YOU CAN DO IT MILLFY
NO FRANCIS DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
MILLFY YOU RE WALKING!
FRANCIS PLEASE YOUR HAND

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WERE ABLE TO WALK THREE STEPS!
WOW, YOU WERE ABLE TO WALK!
WAVER
AH
I WALKED
I DID IT FRANCIS!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU THAT I WAS ABLE TO WALK!
YOU DID IT MILLY! GOOD JOB!

SHE WAS TRYING HER HARDEST YOU KNOW!
IT WAS ONLY THREE STEPS BUT THEY WERE THE FIRST THREE STEPS SHE WALKED!
THAT'S RIGHT NATALIE! MILLY'S STARTED WALKING!
THE WEEK-END?
YE AH
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO WALK EVEN MORE SOON ENOUGH
IT WAS HARD TO WATCH BECAUSE SHE SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS IN A LOT OF PAIN BUT SHE STILL MANAGED TO WALK!
I WAS SO HAPPY FOR HER THAT I FELT REALLY MOVED BY IT!
I'M SORRY
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT HOME
CLANG
OH
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT THEN
MY HOME WORK'S PILING UP
RIGHT FROM MY CLASSES

The bed feels so big...
my hands and legs feel cold...
The leaves of the trees have turned colors.
Francis' phone calls are all about Millfy...
before, he used to hate having to go visit her...
he's gotten so absorbed in helping Millfy that he hasn't even had time to draw his assignments...
Think about me—
Please whisper in my ear that you love me!
Francis, we're going to continue loving each other and live as that elderly couple does, isn't that right?!


Please Francis don't make me question our love——
NATALIE —!
I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE WITHOUT CALLING FIRST
FRANCIS SAID HE COULDN'T COME HOME BECAUSE HE HAS MANY ASSIGNMENTS TO COMPLETE SO I DECIDED TO VISIT
SINCE TODAY'S A SUNDAY I FIGURED THAT HE'D BE HOME
ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO SHO-SAN'S MEALS I MADE SOME LUNCH
WOULD YOU CARE TO HAVE SOME WITH US?
DON'T TELL ME
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIM, HE WAS HERE IN THE MORNING BUT HE HEADED OFF TO THE ART SHOP BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE SOME COLORS
HE JUST HEADED OUT
BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST COME ON IN
IS IT COLD OUTSIDE ALREADY?

THIS EARLY IN THE DAY...
HE'S OVER IT MILLFY'S, ISN'T HE?
DON'T HIDE IT FROM ME, FELIMAN.
NATA-LIE—...
IS MILLFY SO IMPORTANT THAT HE CAN'T EVEN COME TO SEE ME?!
IS FRANCIS DOING ALL NIGHTERS TO MAKE TIME TO GO AND SEE MILLFY?!
blinks
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
NATA-LIE—!
PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM THAT I WAS HERE!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE IT OUT ON YOU LIKE THIS.
I-I'M SORRY

I... KNOW THAT... THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S ONLY GOING TO HELP MILLY HEAL HER LEG
I'M THE STRANGE ONE I KNOW THIS IS NOTHING
NO! DON'T LOOK! I'M EMBARRASSED
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M CRYING OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS
I HAVE TO GO HOME AND WORK
I'M FINE
PLEASE LET ME GO
NATALIE, IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO BE UPSET!
WHAT YOU'RE FEELING IS SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE JUSTIFIED TO BE FEELING!
PLEASE! LET GO OF ME!

dash
You've got to be kidding me Francis...
I didn't watch over both of you all this time only to see things come to this!
No! These feelings— please disappear!
I don't want to think about the bad things! I don't!

<END OF CHAPTER>

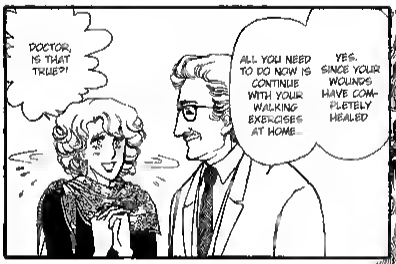
Ishoujo Scans

Volume 4
Chapter 32

Translator	Oceansportrait
Proofreader	CreateMagic
Cleaner	Vonne
Typesetter	GreatChoco
QCer	Monmedel & Vally

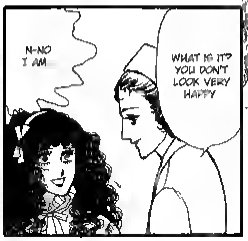
Suna no Shiro

JUST A LITTLE MORE
COME ON, MILLY!
YAY!
I'VE CAUGHT YOU, FRANCIS!
You can't cry! This is nothing!
You have to continue to have faith in Francis!
Thanks for reading Suma no Shiro! Support the mangaka by buying the original volumes!


DOCTOR, IS THAT TRUE?!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO NOW IS CONTINUE WITH YOUR WALKING EXERCISES AT HOME.
YES. SINCE YOUR WOUNDS HAVE COMPLETELY HEALED

I'M BEING DISCHARGED

what's going to happen with Francis-?


N-NO I AM
WHAT IS IT? YOU DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY

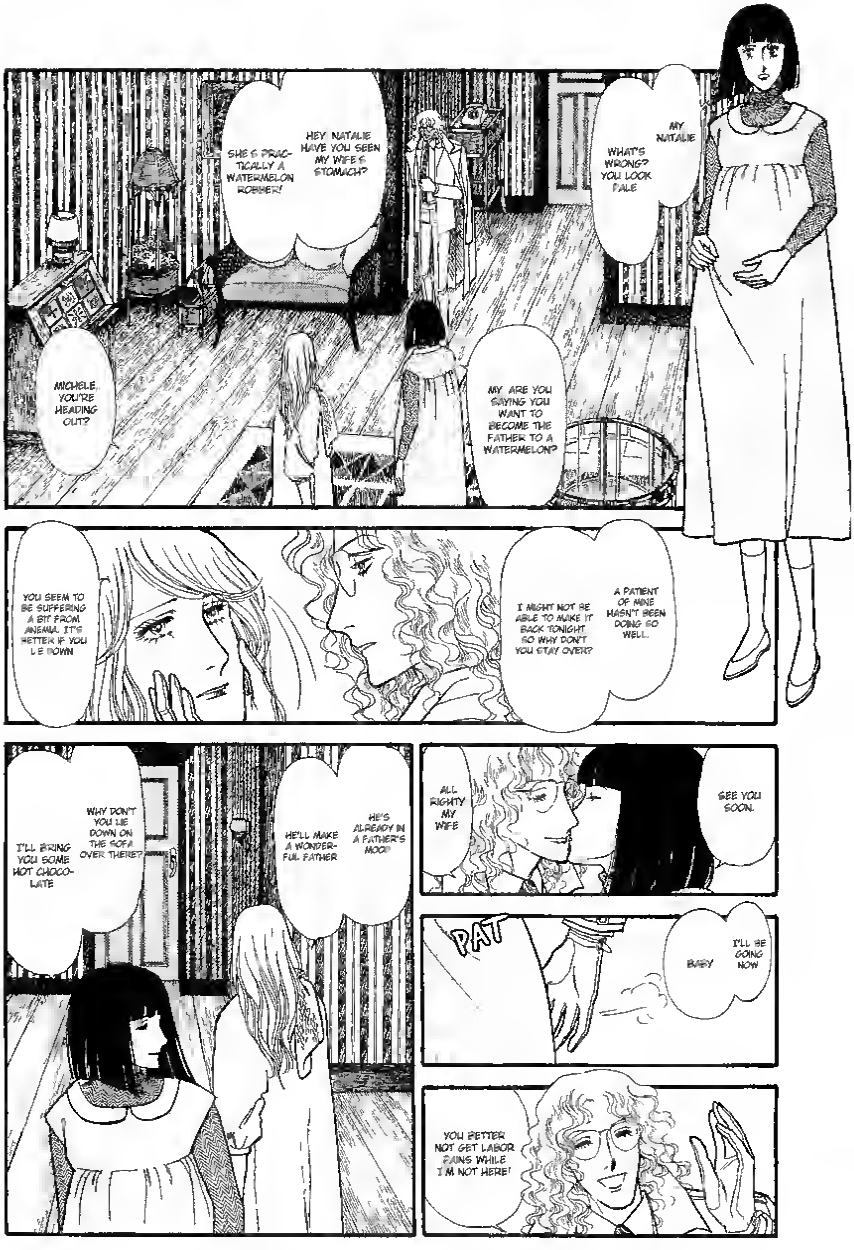
If my leg heals-

What is it
that I should do?

LUNCH IS OVER THERE
I CHANGED MY MIND
HAVE SOME
OH, FELHAN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING OUT?
YOU'RE BACK EARLY
WHAT? THIS? WHAT HAP-PENED TO IT DID YOU DROP IT?
I'M GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP! I'M TIRED
NO THANKS. I'VE ALREADY EATEN LUNCH
EAT IT
YOU HEARD RIGHT FOR ONE FELHAN! I'M RE-EL EVEN!
WOW, I'M SO GLAD FOR HER!
SHE'S BEING DISCHARGED TOMORROW?! REALLY?
EH?
OH MILLY'S
HELLO —?

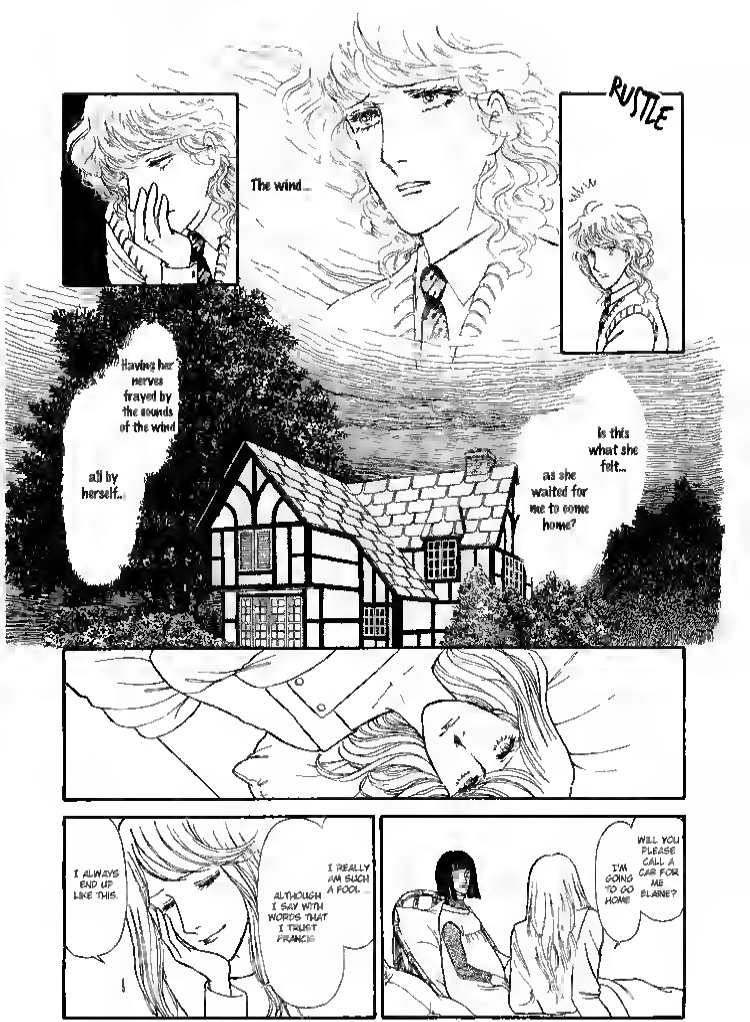
WITH THIS, YOUR ROLE IS OVER.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS NOW, DO YOU?
WITH THIS YOU CAN CUT TIES WITH MILLFY.
FELIHAN
I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T LIKE MILLFY BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN-
DON'T GO AROUND SHOUTING LINES AS IF YOU'RE AN ADULT, YOU FOOL!
IF YOU WERE MORE MATURE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SAY THIS!
THAT LUNCH OVER THERE! THAT'S SOMETHING NATALIE BROUGHT FOR YOU!
HAVE YOU EVEN CONSIDERED HOW MUCH THAT HURT NATALIE!
SHE CAME OVER BUT YOU WEREN'T HOME BECAUSE YOU WERE OVER AT MILLFY'S!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE SOME GUY BECOME ARROGANT BECAUSE HE'S GOTTEN USED TO HAVING SOMEONE IN LOVE WITH HIM!

SHE WAS HERE?
YEAH SHE LEFT CRYING
YOU NEED TO BECOME MAN ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE WOMAN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH!
FRANCIS, IT'S TRUE THAT WHAT YOU DO IS YOUR OWN BUSINESS
BUT IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN- YOU NEED TO GIVE THIS MORE THOUGHT
I'M HEADING OVER THERE
I UNDERSTAND

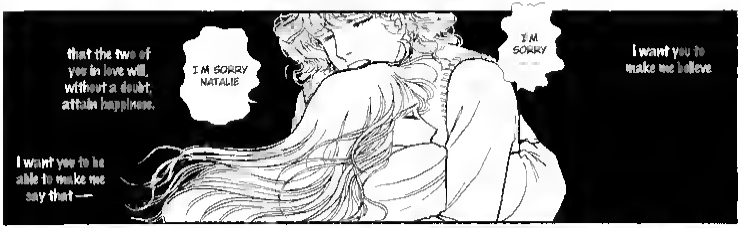

MY NATALIE
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE
HEY NATALIE HAVE YOU SEEN MY WIFE'S STOMACH?
SHE'S PRACTICALLY A WATERMELON ROBBER!
MICHELE, YOU'RE HEADING OUT?
MY ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO BECOME THE FATHER TO A WATERMELON?
A PATIENT OF MINE HASN'T BEEN DOING SO WELL.
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TONIGHT SO WHY DON'T YOU STAY OVER?
YOU SEEM TO BE SUFFERING A BIT FROM ANEMIA. IT'S BETTER IF YOU LIE DOWN
SEE YOU SOON.
ALL RIGHTY MY WIFE
I'LL BE GOING NOW
BABY
PAT
HE'S ALREADY IN A FATHER'S MOOD
HE'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL FATHER
WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN ON THE SOFA OVER THERE?
I'LL BRING YOU SOME HOT CHOCOLATE
YOU BETTER NOT GET LABOR PAINS WHILE I'M NOT HERE!

A comfortable looking room.
It's warm and peaceful- it speaks volumes of the personalities of those who live here.
A couple who love each other.
A happy baby who is about to be born.
I can't believe Natalie left crying...
where could she have possibly gone?
To think she's not back yet...
She's not back yet-

I'M COMING
I'M COMING
MY FRIEND!
LONG TIME NO TALK.
NO
SHE'S NOT HERE
I'M NOT SURE
SHE HASN'T CALLED
CLING
IS IT NELLY?
WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS?
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON.
I KNEW IT!
NATALIE, DO YOU KNOW WHY VALUSKE PUT A STOP TO YOUR MARRIAGE FOR FOUR YEARS?
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S ASKING FOR TOO MUCH TO EXPECT AN EIGHTEEN YEAR-OLD BOY LIKE HIM TO UNDERSTAND THE DEPTHS OF A WOMAN'S HEART
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU.
IF MARRYING HIM PUTS YOU AT EASE PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THAT WAY
WHAT YOU NEED IS TO BE ABLE TO FEEL AT EASE

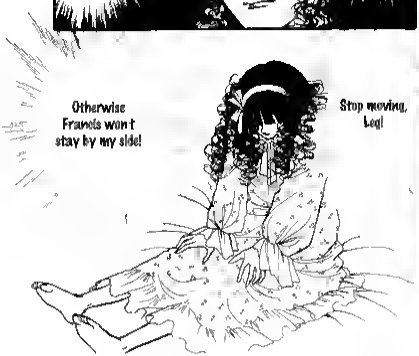

The wind...
RUSTLE
Having her nerves frayed by the sounds of the wind
all by herself...
Is this what she felt...
as she waited for me to come home?
I ALWAYS END UP LIKE THIS.
I REALLY AM SUCH A FOOL...
ALTHOUGH I SAY WITH WORDS THAT I TRUST FRANCIS
I'M GOING TO GO HOME
WILL YOU PLEASE CALL A CAR FOR MR BLAINE?

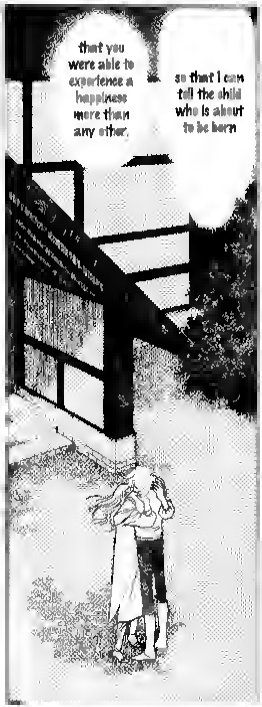
You may be the happiest woman of all, for it is you who has found someone to love to the extent he's seared into your memory
VROOM
IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU TO WATCH, ISN'T IT?
I CAN BE SO UN-STEADY
I HAVE A FEELING I AM A BIT ENVIOUS OF YOU AS WELL
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT
You pine for him to the point of pain,
SLAM
as he pines for you-
perhaps that makes you the happiest woman of all.
My only wish as someone who has watched over you for the longest time
I'M SO SORRY
is that the love you two share is not a love that will end with you only hurting each other


I'M SORRY NATALIE
I'M SORRY
that the two of you in love will, without a doubt, attain happiness.
I want you to make me believe
I want you to be able to make me say that —

I only have this leg to hold Francis back from leaving.

I don't care if I can never walk again!
I wish my leg never moved!


Otherwise Francis won't stay by my side!
Stop moving, Leg!


that you were able to experience a happiness more than any other.
so that I can tell the child who is about to be born

IT SMELLS WONDERFUL
NNN.
GOOD MORNING
ARE YOU AWAKE?
MILLY WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL TODAY
A SURGEON WILL BE LIFTED OFF OUR SHOULDERS THEN
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO FEEL GUILT BECAUSE OF HER LEG
IT'S VERY SEXY
I LOVE YOUR MORNING FACE THE MOST
THIS IS DELICIOUS

COME ON NOW MILLY. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT UP.
ONCE YOU'RE FINISHED BREAKFAST IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL.
SINCE I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND A LOT MORE TIME WITH YOU,
I'LL BE AROUND SO MUCH YOU'LL GET SICK OF ME!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A HANDFUL...
IT WAS A LONG THREE MONTHS I'M SO HAPPY!
YOU LIKE YOUR NEW DRESS DON'T YOU? YOUR FATHER CHOSE IT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
Eh?!
WOBBLE
because I wasn't able to sleep very well last night
I have a headache...

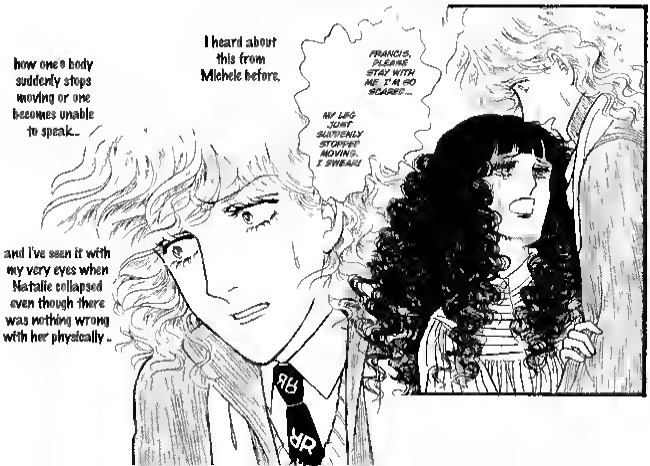
click
MILLFY?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
YO, MR. ALL-NIGHTER.
I BET YOU DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP LAST NIGHT
LAY OFF IT.
EH?! THAT'S A LIE!
BUT I MADE SURE TO TAKE A SHOWER.
YOU SMELL OF COFFEE AND WOMAN
SNIFF SNIFF
THANK FELIAN, YOU FOR LAST NIGHT.
M-MY BAD MY BAD
SNICKER
Y-YOU REALLY AREN'T CAPABLE OF LYING, ARE YOU?
ARRGHHH!

MILLY'S LEG
SUDDENLY STOPPED MOVING ?
SEE? THE PHONE'S RINGING! YOU SHOULD GET IT!
A CALL!
RRRR...
I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET A GOOD SWING IN LATER.
DAMN IT!
SPEAKING
AH YES
HELLO?
EH ?
IT'S TRUE! IT WON'T MOVE AT ALL!
H-HOWEVER, FOR IT TO STOP MOVING EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING WRONG MUST MEAN-
I'M GOING HOME! YOU SAID I COULD BE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL TODAY!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME THING- TEST AFTER TEST FROM EARLY IN THE MORNING!
NO! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF TESTS!
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T PUT ANY STRENGTH INTO IT!
IT WON'T MOVE!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU MANY TIMES!

IT DOESN'T HURT, BUT IT WON'T MOVE!
BUT THAT WASN'T IT. IT WON'T MOVE!
I FIRST THOUGHT MY LEG JUST WENT TO SLEEP.
FRANCIS
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WE DON'T KNOW IT'S JUST THAT THIS MORNING MILLEY TRIED TO GET OUT OF BED AND SHE FELL
HER LEG WON'T MOVE AT ALL
PSYCHOLOGICAL
WE CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE
IT'S STRANGE THAT IT'S NOT MOVING
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER PHYSICALLY
WHEN IT COMES TO THAT, THAT'S OUTSIDE OF OUR FIELD. SO IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR HER TO SEEK TREATMENT BETTER SUITED FOR THOSE KIND OF ISSUES
FRANCIS
DUE TO HER FEARS AND PARANOIA, HER MIND'S REJECTING THE BODY'S ATTEMPT TO MOVE
SHE'S UNDER QUITE A BIT OF EMOTIONAL STRESS TO BE ABLE TO WALK

DADDY, MOMMY! TAKE ME HOME!
I JUST WANT TO GO HOME!
I HATE IT HERE!
WELL...
HMM...
HER EXTERNAL WOUNDS HAVE ALL COMPLETELY HEALED

THEN FOR NOW WE'LL TAKE HER HOME WITH US
IF YOU CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAINTY
THEN WE'LL ASK FOR HELP FROM SPECIALISTS


FRANCIS, PLEASE STAY WITH ME! I'M SO SCARED...
MY LEG JUST SUDDENLY STOPPED MOVING. I SWEAR!
I heard about this from Michele before.
how one's body suddenly stops moving or one becomes unable to speak...
and I've seen it with my very eyes when Natalie collapsed even though there was nothing wrong with her physically...

IT'S THE ONE YOU LEAST WANT TO HEAR
IF IT TRULY WON'T MOVE THEN THE CAUSE IS CLEAR
IS IT MY FAULT ?
THERE'S NO NEED TO EXPLAIN ANY FURTHER.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IF HER LEG HEALS YOU'LL NO LONGER VISIT HER
THAT'S SOMETHING MILLY DREADS ABOVE ALL.
THAT'S RIGHT
WELL TO BE MORE PRECISE IT'S BEING CAUSED BY THE FEAR OF LOSING YOU.
AND BEHAVE IN THE WAY THAT SHE WISHES?
ARE YOU GOING TO REASSURE HER THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS STAY BY HER SIDE
ARE YOU GOING TO STAY BY MILLY'S SIDE?

THEN THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HER LEG WILL GET BETTER-
NON!*
*Note: French for the word no
IT'S SIMPLE.
IF YOU LOVE HER, THE PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED
IT'S AN AILMENT THAT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO TREAT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS ASKING! WHAT I WANT TO ASK IS THERE ARE ANY OTHER WAYS OF TREATING H-
YOU ASKED SO I ANSWERED AS A DOCTOR.
THAT'S THE METHOD WITH THE HIGHEST POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS.
THAT'S TERRIBLE OF YOU TO SAY MICHELE! YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
A DOCTOR'S TREATMENT IS LIMITED ON THAT MATTER
WE'VE YET TO COMPREHEND FULLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MIND AND BODY
ONCE SHE GETS IN THE MIND FRAME THAT SHE CAN'T WALK A STEP, HER BODY MAY REJECT ALL ATTEMPTS TO WALK NO MATTER WHAT ONE DOES.

YOU BETTER THINK WELL AND HARD BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE
YOUR ATTITUDE ALONE ON THIS MATTER CAN BE ENOUGH TO MAKE NATALIE END UP AS A PATIENT HERE
CASES LIKE THAT ARE COMMON WITH THOSE WHO TAKE THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY
LIKE NATALIE
THE ONE I LOVE IS NATALIE!
MEN WHO ARE CAPABLE OF LOVING TWO WOMEN FULLY RARELY EXIST IF AT ALL
BUT I MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF HEALING MILLFY
I LOVE NATALIE
I CAN ONLY EVER LOVE NATALIE
TO KNOW THAT AND YET DO NOTHING WOULD BE TOO TERRIBLE OF A THING TO DO.
MICHELE WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT I SHOULD DO?
I AM TRYING TO BECOME A MONSTER.
MICHELE... I M TRYING TO ABANDON MILLFY...

WE HAVE VARIOUS MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS HERE
AT ANY RATE, YOU SHOULD TRY BRINGING HER OVER HERE AT ONCE
THIS IS ONLY THE CASE IF HER LEG TRULY WON'T MOVE
THERE'S STILL HOPE WON'T YOU AGREE?
SO DOES THAT MEAN
YOU MUST MEAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
THAT WOMAN DROVE HERSELF INTO A CORNER?
WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY IT REEKS OF LIES THAT IT'S ALMOST LAUGHABLE.
CAN SHE GET YOU TO LOVE HER IF SHE OFFERS ONE LEG TO YOU?
WELL IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S THE TRUTH OR A LIE.
CAN SHE MAKE YOU HERS SO EASILY?
WHAT'S CRUCIAL IS YOUR STANCE ON THE MATTER.

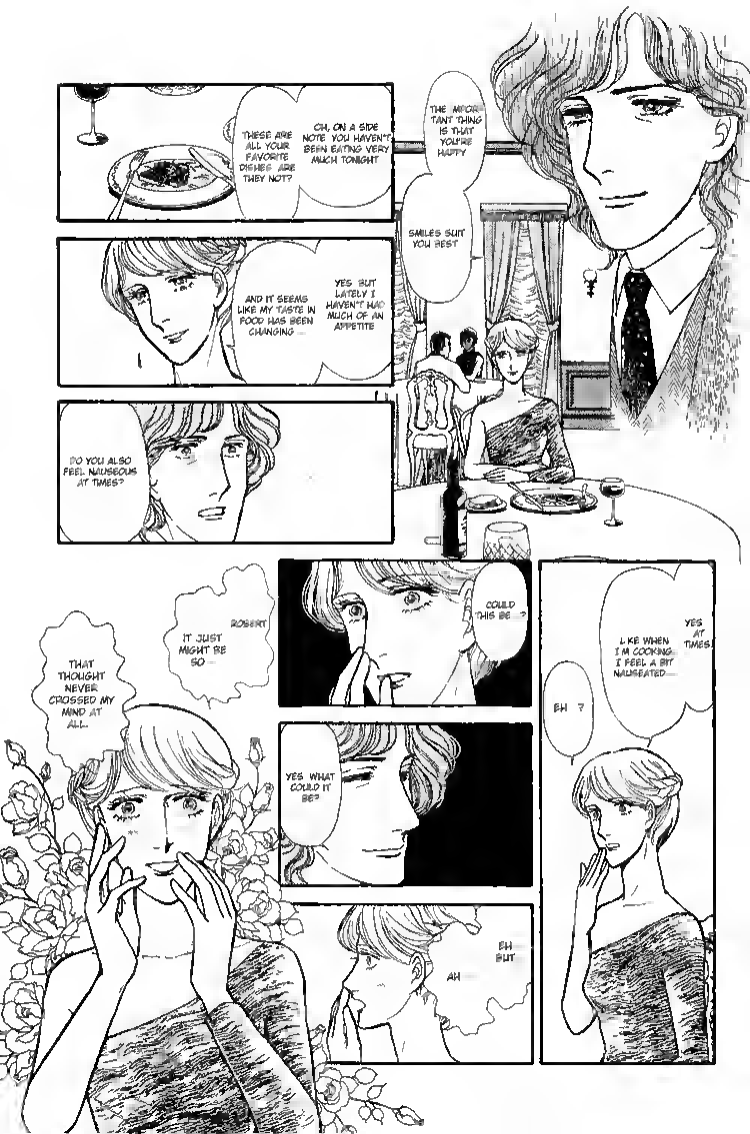
WELL THEN, I'LL GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU
IF THAT MEANS I CAN MAKE YOU MINE THEN I WON'T REGRET MY DECISION.
IF THIS IS IN EXCHANGE FOR MY LIFE
YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT WILL YOU?

S-STOP IT...!
SEE? WHAT'D I TELL YOU? WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, YOU CAN'T DO IT
YOU AREN'T EVEN CAPABLE OF PRETENDING TO LOVE SOME-ONE ELSE
YOU THINK WHAT I DID WAS SOME-THING I DID IN JEST DON'T YOU?
EVEN IF YOU KNEW THAT THERE WAS NO LIE TO THIS WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUSH ME AWAY IN THE SAME MANNER?
SO HOW ABOUT IT, HUH?

SHALL I TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU A THOUSAND TIMES OVER?
I'M NOT LYING
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, ARE YOU,
I'LL HAVE AN?
IF I PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE WOULD IT BE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU MINE?
I PLANNED ON NEVER TELLING YOU BUT I JUST DID
I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT WAS THAT I BEGAN TO LOVE YOU, BUT I ALREADY LOVED YOU BY THE TIME I'D REALIZED IT
FRANCIS
FUWA?
UR
UR
UR

EVEN IF IT'S YOU,
I'M SORRY
BUT I CAN'T
I
IF YOU PUT UP A GOOD FRONT TO MILLFY AFTER THIS YOU WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT FROM ME
OK THEN. DON'T FORGET THAT FEELING JUST NOW
FELHIAN
SO THAT WAS A LIE JUST NOW?
Eh?
Eh?
Eh-?!
YES
IT'S A LIE. RIGHT?
I TOOK WHAT YOU SAID SERIOUSLY, YOU KNOW!
HOW COULD YOU, FELHIAN!

BECAUSE YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO MEANS A LOT TO ME IT MADE ME WORRY ALL THE MORE!
WELL SORRY ABOUT THAT
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
THIS'LL PROBABLY BE THE FIRST AND LAST TIME I'LL EVER KISS A GUY
I WAS SERIOUSLY WONDERING HOW I SHOULD REPLY, YOU KNOW!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A FOOL DRIVELLING ON AND ON
YOU SEEMED DOWN LATELY SO I ASKED YOU OUT FOR A MEAL TO GIVE YOU A CHANGE OF PACE
BUT FRANKLY, I'M A BIT SURPRISED TO SEE YOU'RE DOING SO WELL!
IS EVERYTHING GOING GREAT WITH YOU AND FRANCIS?
YES.
Frankaise
YOU CAN BE QUITE THE HEART-BREAKER
FOR YOU TO SHOW ME SUCH A SMILE FULL OF BLISS...
I'VE STARTED TO LEARN TO BECOME UNKIND TO IT


THESE ARE ALL YOUR FAVORITE DISHES ARE THEY NOT?
OH, ON A SIDE NOTE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EATING VERY MUCH TONIGHT
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE HAPPY
SMILES SUIT YOU BEST
AND IT SEEMS LIKE MY TASTE IN FOOD HAS BEEN CHANGING...
YES BUT LATELY I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OF AN APPETITE
DO YOU ALSO FEEL NAUSEOUS AT TIMES?
COULD THIS BE...?
ROBERT
IT JUST MIGHT BE SO...
THAT THOUGHT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND AT ALL.
YES WHAT COULD IT BE?
EH BUT
AH
YES AT TIMES
LIKE WHEN I'M COOKING I FEEL A BIT NAUSEATED...
EH ?

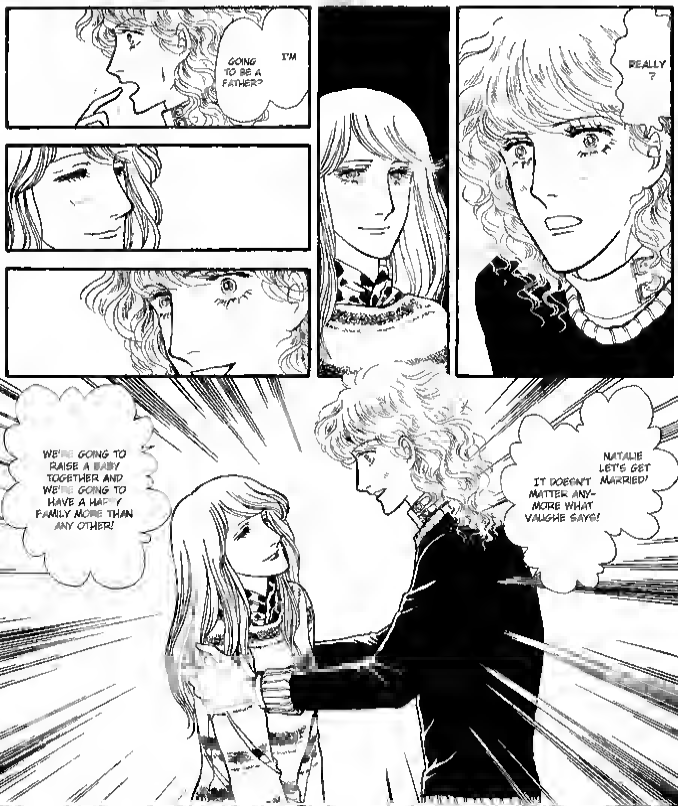
SIGH
A baby is going to be born between me and Francis...
Francis' child...
CLINIC
I'm so happy!
My baby
My and Francis' baby
Oh please come soon and show us your face.
What a lovely present
There are so many things I want to tell you.
Baby,
let me hear your voice-

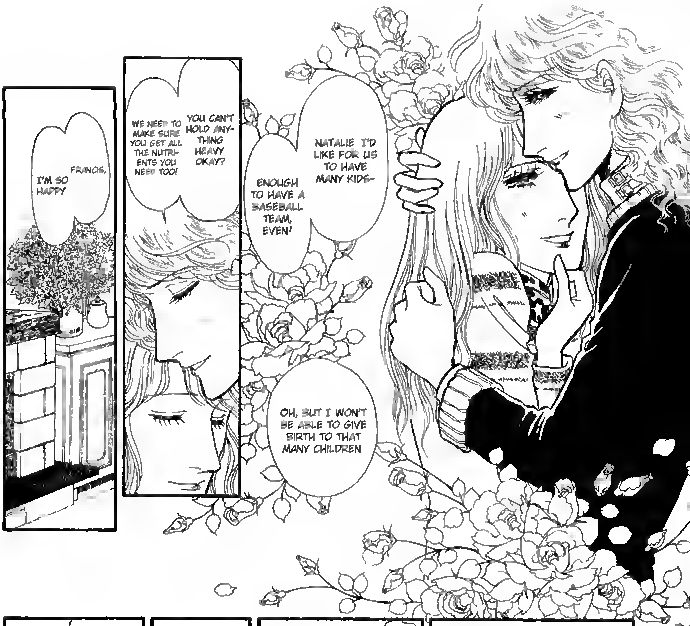
Everything seems different now.

Was it the same for Elaine?

Just knowing that you're here, baby, I feel a sense of contentment wash over me.

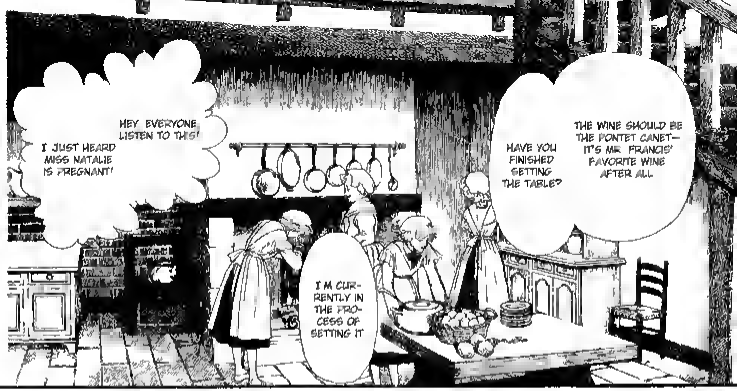
Did she feel like this too?


I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER?
REALLY?
WE'RE GOING TO RAISE A BABY TOGETHER AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY MORE THAN ANY OTHER!
NATALIE LET'S GET MARRIED! IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY-MORE WHAT VAUGHE SAYS!


I'M SO HAPPY
FRANCIS,
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL THE NUTRIENTS YOU NEED! TOO!
YOU CAN'T HOLD ANYTHING HEAVY OKAY?
NATALIE I'D LIKE FOR US TO HAVE MANY KIDS–
ENOUGH TO HAVE A BASEBALL TEAM, EVEN!
OH, BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE BIRTH TO THAT MANY CHILDREN

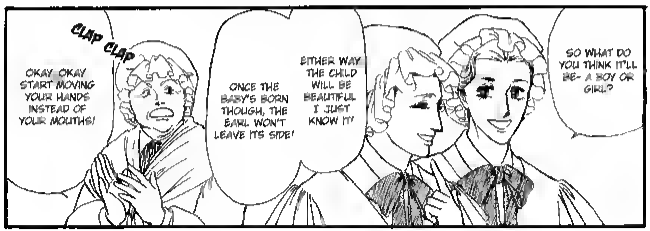
IT'S TRUE I JUST RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM HIM
HE SAID HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME FOR A WHILE
THAT CAN'T BE

AND SO THAT'S WHY HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME
HE SAID THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED
AND THAT MISS NATALIE IS PREG-NANT
HOW CAN HE DO THIS WHEN I'M IN SUCH A WRETCHED STATE!
N-NO... THAT CAN'T BE...
I WON'T LET HIM...
FOR ONLY THEM TO BECOME HAPPY — I WON'T LET THEM!


HEY, EVERYONE LISTEN TO THIS!
I JUST HEARD MISS NATALIE IS PREGNANT!
I'M CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF SETTING IT
HAVE YOU FINISHED SETTING THE TABLE?
THE WINE SHOULD BE THE PONTET CANET— IT'S MR. FRANCIS' FAVORITE WINE AFTER ALL

THE EARL IS SO ECSTATIC THAT HE'S READY TO GET THEM MARRIED TOMORROW IF NEED BE!
OH, BUT DIDN'T HE SAY THAT THEY CAN ONLY MARRY AFTER MR. FRANCIS GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY?
HOW DID THE EARL REACT?!
WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS!

WELL THEN, THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! WE'RE GOING TO PREPARE AN EXTRA SPECIAL MEAL!
HE SAID HE WANTS TO SEE THE FACE OF HIS GRANDCHILD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
EVEN THOUGH THE EARL WAS SAYING "OH, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?" HE WAS ALL SMILES!

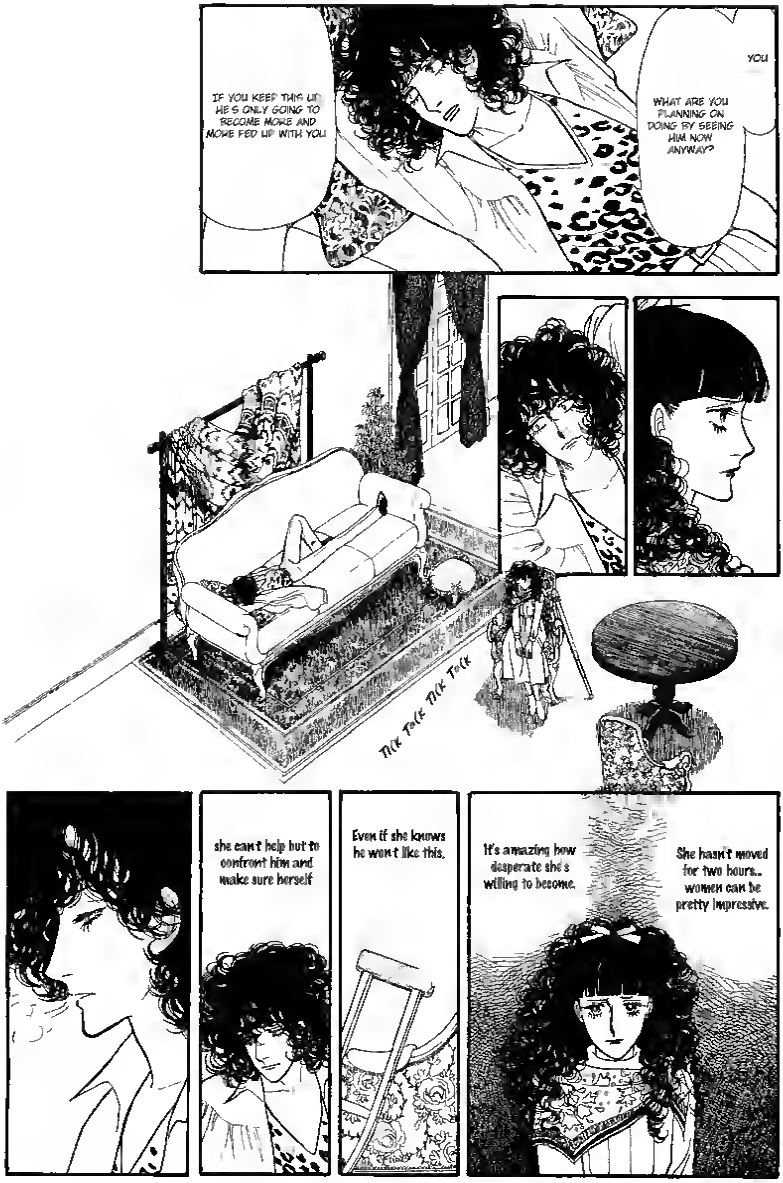

CLAP CLAP
OKAY, OKAY START MOVING YOUR HANDS INSTEAD OF YOUR MOUTHS!
ONCE THE BABY'S BORN THOUGH, THE EARL WON'T LEAVE ITS SIDE!
EITHER WAY THE CHILD WILL BE BEAUTIFUL I JUST KNOW IT!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE- A BOY OR GIRL?

IS THAT RIGHT
WELL THEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE HUM HUM...
chuckle
chuckle
WE NEED TO CALL THE FLOWER SHOP AND ASK THEM TO BRING ALL THE FLOWERS THEY HAVE!
AND CHAMPAGNE! FOR CELEBRATIONS THEY NEED CHAMPAGNE!
AHAHAHA
HAHAHA
THE CHAMPAGNE SHOULD BE DES PRINCES!
OH, AND THE WINE SHOULD BE LA TOUR! NO OTHER WILL DO!
SHE CAN MOVE IN HERE OR WE COULD HIRE A PERSON TO BE WITH HER.
THAT'S RIGHT. WE NEED TO HIRE A NURSE AND NUTRITIONIST.
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF
WE CAN'T HAVE NATALIE LIVING ON HER OWN UNTIL THEN THOUGH.
EVEN IF WE WERE TO PREPARE THE CEREMONY IN A RUSH, IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME.
I SEE THAT FRANCIS GOT HIS TENDENCY TO WORRY FROM YOU, VAUGHIE
UHUHE UHUHE
OH, YOU TWO SAY THE EXACT SAME THINGS.
THAT'S RIGHT NATALIE.
UHUHE
THAT WON'T DO WE NEED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR THINGS LIKE THIS
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT- JUST CONCENTRATE ON GIVING BIRTH TO A HEALTHY BABY!

I halt the hand pouring the tea and return a smile.
The scenery I've admired for so long stretches out before me.
The sunny afternoon, the laughter of children—
The light of happiness.
Anything and everything is reflecting light
It's so bright that I feel dizzy
and it's so bright that I can't see anything.
CLACK
CLICK
CLICK

I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU LET ME WAIT HERE
THAT'S FINE ISN'T IT?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T EVER COMING HERE AGAIN?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FRANCIS HE ISN'T HERE
I'M COMING IN
IT'S COLD OUTSIDE SO SERVE ME SOME TEA, WILL YOU?
YOU'VE HEARD HAVEN'T YOU? THEY'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED SOON.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE NATALIE, HUH?
NO! WHO WOULD GO THERE?!
IF YOU WANT TO SEE FRANCIS, YOU'RE BETTER OFF GOING TO MR. LANBERRE'S HOUSE
IGNORES
BUT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF IT SO JUST SAVE IT
I CAN ALREADY GUESS WHAT YOU WANT TO TELL ME

DO AS YOU'D LIKE.
PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TEA.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUST CAME BARGING IN.
GO AND SERVE IT YOURSELF THEN.


IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, HE'S ONLY GOING TO BECOME MORE AND MORE FED UP WITH YOU
YOU
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING BY SEEING HIM NOW ANYWAY?
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK
she can't help but to confront him and make sure herself
Even if she knows he won't like this.
It's amazing how desperate she's willing to become.
She hasn't moved for two hours... women can be pretty impressive.

What you're doing is the equivalent of a brat whining for a toy.
If there's even a grain of hope, she clings onto it.
Even then, there is no lie in your love.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE FRANCIS IT'S BETTER IF YOU THINK IT OVER AND START FROM SCRATCH AGAIN
OR IS THIS YOUR WAY OF KEEPING BUSY?
AT ANY RATE DO AS YOU'D LIKE
I'VE THROWN MY WHITE TOWEL IN.
DRINK IT
YOU WANTED IT, RIGHT?
DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FEEL PITY FOR YOU.
ARE YOU PITYING ME?

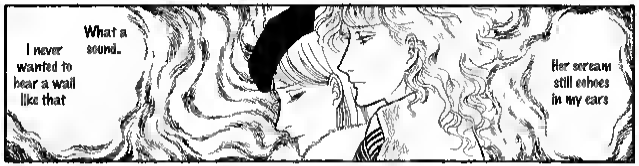
WHY WOULD I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO COME HERE TO.....
WHAT KIND OF NERVE DO YOU HAVE TO TELL ME THAT?!
DON'T BE KIND TO ME! IT MAKES IT HARDER FOR ME TO STAY!
WHY'RE YOU ACTING LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE GIVING ME THE CREEPS!
WHAT ..!
IS THAT YOUR WAY OF RELIEVING STRESS?
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO FIGHT WITH ME?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT! I'M SELFISH AND UNREASONABLE!
OF COURSE IT ISN'T! YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!
OH...SO THAT'S NOT IT HUH ?
EVEN I KNOW THAT FRANCIS DOESN'T LOVE ME!

THEY'RE OFF HAPPILY GETTING MARRIED WHILE I'VE LOST THE USE OF MY LEG!
BUT THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST ACCE..T THAT?! THAT'S TERRIBLE!
EVERYONE SHOULD JUST ALL BE MIS-ERABLE!
I WON'T LET THEM BE HAPPY!
THEN I'D RATHER KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS
IF I HAVE TO GIVE FRANCIS TO SOME OTHER WOMAN.

THEMMACK
AH
CLATTER
PUSH
Oh no!

THIS PATHETIC FIGURE ISN'T ME!
DON'T LOOK!
NOOOOOOOO!

SORRY BUT WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS EITHER, DO YOU?
GO!
OR WHAT ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT HER TO FEEL EVEN MORE WRETCHED?!
AT THE VERY LEAST, LET HER KEEP THIS LAST THREAD OF PRIDE!
CAFE TABAC



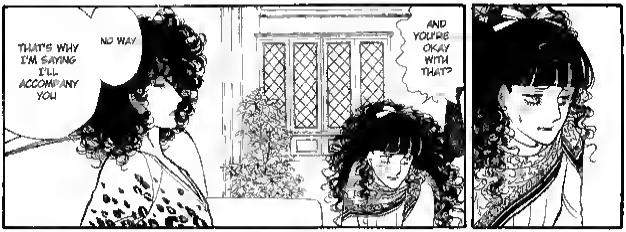
I'm sorry, Milfy.

You can have anything else but not Franois.

He's the happiness I've found at long last ! can't let this person go.

I WANT TO DIE
WANT ME TO ACCOM PANY YOU?
NOT WHEN I THINK THAT MIGHT BE IT FOR US
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO CONFESS TO HIM.
AT LEAST YOU'RE UPFRONT ABOUT IT
THE THINGS THAT YOU SAID- THERE ARE TIMES I'VE THOUGHT THAT MYSELF

WE'RE THE SAME— YOU AND I
I WOULDN'T DO AN IMPUDENT THING LIKE PITY YOU
THE REASON WHY I WAS ALWAYS GIVING YOU A HARD TIME WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS JEALOUS THAT YOU COULD LIVE SO HONESTLY...
FRANCIS DOESN'T KNOW...?
chuckles
IT'S PROBABLY NEVER EVEN CROSSED HIS MIND
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TOGETHER DAWN TILL DUSK, HE HASN'T NOTICED A THING
NO WAY. I'VE NEVER MET A PERSON MORE DENSE THAN HIM.
Y-YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL...!
HE SEES NO ONE BUT NATALIE
YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO HIM, AND YET—
WHAT I WANT ARE HIS FEELINGS
HIS HEART ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE STOLEN BY FORCE


THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU
NO WAY
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?

SINCE WE MAKE AN UNLIKELY COUPLE AFTER ALL.
EVERYONE'LL PROBABLY WRACK THEIR BRAINS WONDERING WHAT DIFFICULTIES FORCED US TO CHOOSE THE PATH OF DEATH TOGETHER.
IF WE DIE TOGETHER THOUGH IT'LL BE SEEN AS A DOUBLE SUICIDE

YOU'RE A MISERABLE PERSON TO PUT A DAMPER ON A PERSON'S DECISION TO DIE LIKE THIS!
A DOUBLE SUICIDE? THERE'S JUST NO WAY!
I-I CAN'T TELL WHAT A PERSON LIKE YOU IS THINKING!

What a strange feeling of familiarity—
To think that Felhan whom I hated so much,
would be the person I feel closest to the most right now—
THANK YOU...
He understands even the feelings I don't know how to deal with.
The more I thought that my feelings wouldn't reach Francis, the more stubborn I became, and I caused trouble for everyone around me.

It doesn't matter where...just one day is fine.
I wish I could've gone somewhere far away with him – just the two of us.
I WISH I COULD'VE GONE ON A TRIP WITH FRANCIS
ONLY ONCE WOULD'VE BEEN FINE
SPLASH
SPLASH

I'M SURE MILLEY WON'T TRY TO GET IN THE WAY ANYMORE
WELL WITH THIS, YOU TWO'LL BE ABLE TO MARRY WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING
A TRIP...
I HAD NO IDEA...
DEEP DOWN SHE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT YOU AFTER ALL
SHE'S A HANDFUL BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER SOME CREDIT
MAKE SURE TO GET YOUR NUTRIENTS AND DON'T TRY TO STRESS YOURSELF
THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME FOR YOU RIGHT NOW
PELHAM...
I CAN STILL HEAR HER WAIL...
I CAN'T GET MILLEY'S VOICE FROM THAT DAY OUT OF MY HEAD...

We have to make preparations for the wedding ceremony
and we have to discuss our plans for the future.
Starting next week, Francis and I will be going to Vaughn's together.
IS IT FOR A BABY?
COULD I HAVE THAT BABY PINK YARN?
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO?
YES. I WAS THINKING OF KNITTING HER A CAPE.
"I WON'T LET THEM BE HAPPY."
I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT HERE
GOING TO YOUR APARTMENT WOULD'VE PUT ME IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION SO...
ANGELIN
I wonder... what happened after that...

WHAT IS IT?
He's gotten a bit thinner...
I WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE UNTIL NOW
THANK YOU
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T COME TO SEE ME...
SO I'M GOING TO SUMMON THE COURAGE TO SAY IT
I FEEL LIKE IF I DON'T SAY IT NOW THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO
AND I KNOW...
I EVEN DID SOMETHING TRULY AWFUL TO MISS NATALIE...
I DID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS...
I'LL RESOLVE
SIMPLE APOLOGY!
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT A

I-I'M SORRY
I TOLD MYSELF... I WASN'T GOING TO CRY BUT
O-OH NO
MILLFY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT MILLFY
WHY DON'T WE GO?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
If she'd never met me,
she wouldn't have had to be hurt
The selfish and spirited princess...
she was adored by everyone...
She would've never ended up like this either..

Milly, you were always in the light—
I'LL SEE YOU HOME. YOU'RE RECEIVING MEDICAL CARE SO YOU'VE GONE BACK TO YOUR OLD HOME RIGHT?
I MADE PLANS TO GO AND SEE VAUGHN TODAY ANYWAY
BUT AT ANY RATE WE'LL BE ON THE SAME TRAIN
IT'LL ONLY BE FAR TWO

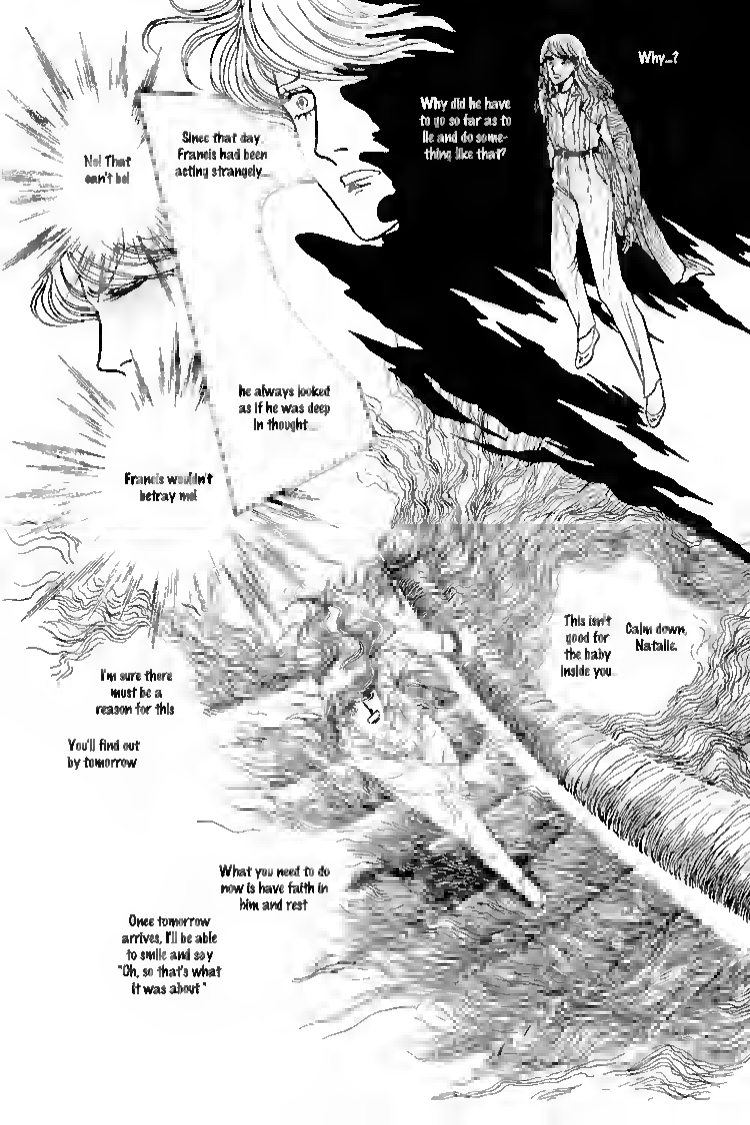
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON A VACATION TOGETHER
I'M SO HAPPY
CLANK
CLANK
Oh... this is the smile.
Because I always wanted to see this smile.
before I'd realized it I would do as she wished
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
When it comes right down to it, no matter what this girl does,
there's no way I can truly hate her
WELL, MILLY, SORRY BUT I'M GOING TO —
IT'S MY STOP SOON.

PLEASE JUST STAY WITH ME FOR ONE DAY
JUST UNTIL THIS TRAIN REACHES THE END OF ITS ROUTE
I'M AT IT AGAIN
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS FAR WITH ME
I BEHAVE LIKE A SPOILT CHILD AROUND YOU
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO KIND
IF WE COULD SEE EACH OTHER SOMEDAY SOME WHERE THAT WOULD BE WONDER-FUL
That's not it.
This forced smile isn't it..
Clutch Clutch
this isn't the smile I want to see...

I'LL STAY WITH YOU FOR A DAY
FRANCIS THE TRAIN IS LEAVING
EH?
BUT IN RETURN YOU NEED TO PHONE HOME AND GET YOUR PARENTS' OK
IF WE GO WITHOUT LETTING YOUR MOTHER KNOW, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WORRIED SHE'LL BE
REALLY?
Millfy this is to apologize to you for not having been able to return your feelings.
For one day—
Millfy just for today I'll gaze at your smile
like I did when we were kids without thinking of anything else.

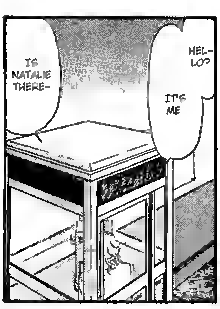
DA-DUM
HELLO-YO'S....
YES ma'?
OH....
UM...
CAN I HELP YOU...?
RRRR
WE'RE GRATEFUL TO FRANCIS' KINDNESS TOO FOR GOING ALONG WITH HER UNREASONABLE REQUESTS
I'M SORRY OUR DAUGHTER IS ALWAYS CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE
EH ?
I knew this is an inconvenience for you but I truly de appreciate it
Th s s the first time in e while that I was able to hear her so heppy!
And even though you've just decided on marrying
he still listened to my daughter's one last selfish request

U-UM... I'M SORRY BUT WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
so I do wish you and Francis the best of wishes to your future
I don't think she'll seek anything further after this
What is she talking about? I didn't hear about any of this!
This is about her and Francis' trip
She told me they went to Brittany
That can't be! He said he was going to Vaughe's today...
Eh?!
Francis and Milly's trip?
Mr Francis hasn't visited today—
He lied to me!
but if you will wait just a moment the Earl—


Why...?
Why did he have to go so far as to lie and do something like that?
Since that day Francis had been acting strangely...
No! That can't be!
he always looked as if he was deep in thought
Francis wouldn't betray me!
This isn't good for the baby inside you.
Calm down, Natalie.
I'm sure there must be a reason for this
You'll find out by tomorrow
What you need to do now is have faith in him and rest
Once tomorrow arrives, I'll be able to smile and say "Oh, so that's what it was about."

Ishouji
Scans
You have a tendency of always thinking too negatively
Don't think of unnecessary things.
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
KYAAAA!
RING RING
RING RING

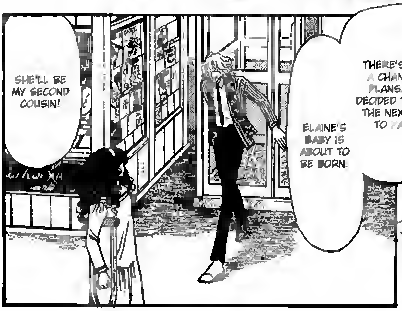
Presents
Sunohara Shiro
Volume 4
Chapter 33

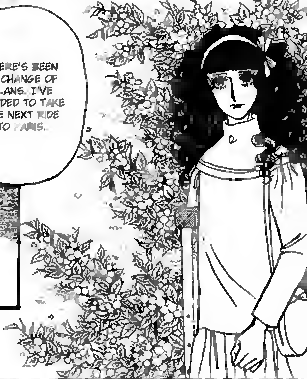

IS NATALIE THERE-
HEL-LO?
IT'S ME

That's strange...
she's supposed to be home today

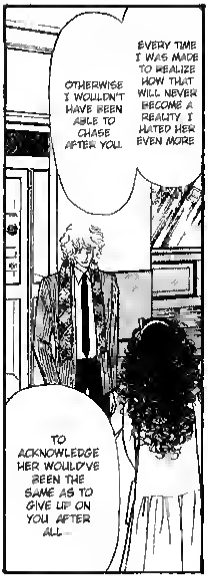
WHAT ?
ELAINE'S GONE TO THE HOSPI-TAL?

OKAY. GOT IT.
THEN I'LL HEAD OVER TO THE HOSPITAL IN A HURRY TOO.
Miss Natalie must have headed over there as well.
Yes, she suddenly started having labor pains earlier today, so the Earl left in quite a rush.


SHE'LL BE MY SECOND COUSIN!
ELAINE'S BABY IS ABOUT TO BE BORN.
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS. I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE THE NEXT RIDE TO PARIS.

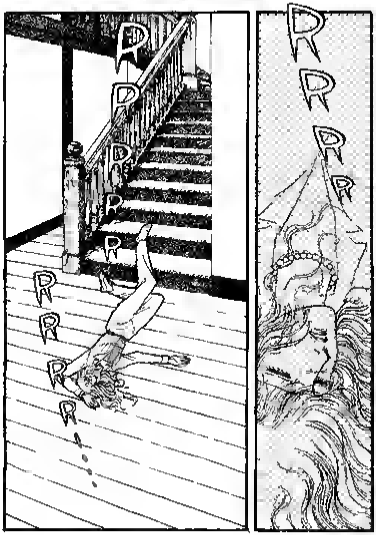


DON'T WORRY. MY MOTHER SHOULD BE HERE IN LESS THAN TEN MINUTES.
I'M SORRY TO LEAVE YOU ALONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
I THOUGHT I'D STAY WITH WITH YOU UNTIL YOUR RIDE CAME, BUT I HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.
STAY WELL...
FOR BEING KIND TO ME TO THE VERY END.
THANK YOU FRANCIS.


OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHASE AFTER YOU.
EVERY TIME I WAS MADE TO REALIZE HOW THAT WILL NEVER BECOME A REALITY I HATED HER EVEN MORE
TO ACKNOWLEDGE HER WOULD'VE BEEN THE SAME AS TO GIVE UP ON YOU AFTER ALL...

BUT I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED HER
I KNOW IT'S LUDICROUS TO SAY THIS CONSIDERING HOW MUCH I HATED HER...
I WANTED TO BECOME SOMEONE LIKE THAT

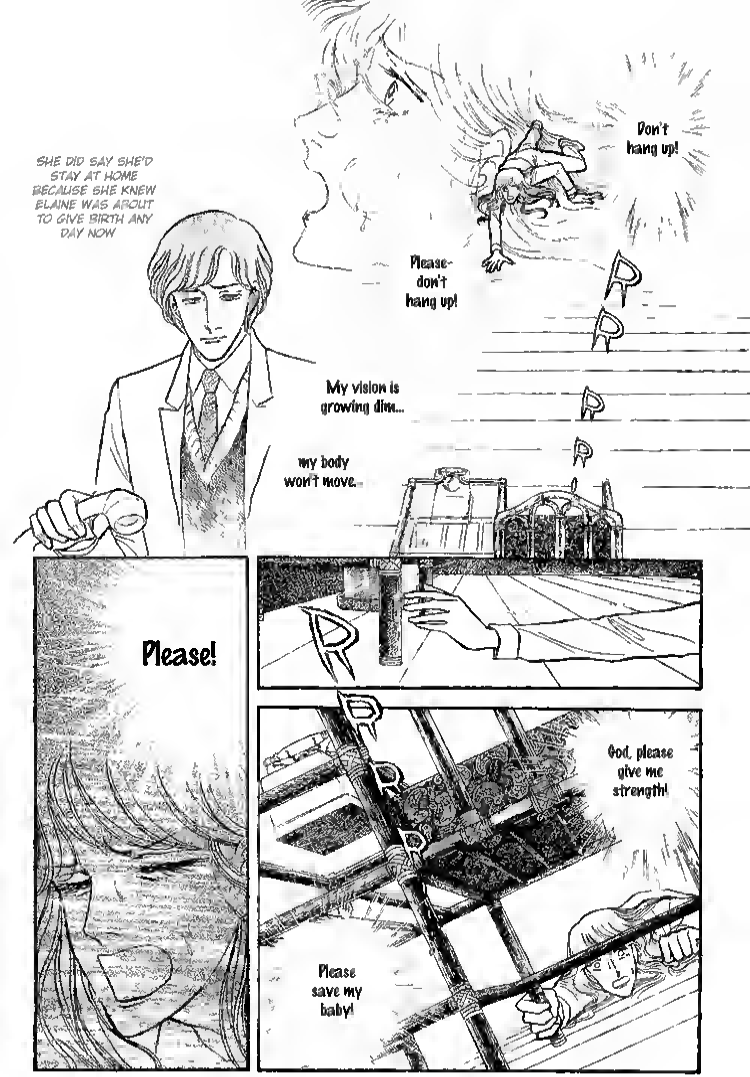
I KNOW THIS MIGHT COME AS A SURPRISE
BUT I LOOKED UP TO MISS NATALIE VERY MUCH


R
R
R

I COULDN'T GET AHOLD OF FRANCIS EITHER PERHAPS THEY'RE TOGETHER?
SHE DID SAY BEFORE THAT SHE'D BE STAYING AT HOME TODAY
SHE'S SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS WAKES UP TO PICK UP THE PHONE EVEN IF SHE'S SLEEPING
THAT'S STRANGE IT SEEMS SHE'S NOT HOME YET...
I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM?
BUT HE HASN'T CALLED
FRANCIS SAID HE WOULD BE COMING OVER TO MY PLACE
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA I'M A BIT CONCERNED AS WELL
I'LL TRY PLACING ONE MORE CALL TO NATALIE
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A BIT WORRIED
tick tock tick tock
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR HER TO BE TAKEN TO THE BIRTHING ROOM
THE CONTRACTIONS ARE COMING AT TEN MINUTE INTERVALS
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO AVOID A HARD LABOR
SURE AM
TALK ABOUT AN ENORMOUS TASK
DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING WITH HER UNTIL THE VERY END?

IT HURTS
UUU
AH
UUU
My stomach!
Don't tell me my baby's...
n-no... that can't be!

Help me- somebody please!
Help me!
N-No...this is my baby.
This is the precious baby between me and Francis!
AHHH....
RRR
hurry... you have to hurry...or else they're going hang up
The phone's ringing
If I can just make it over there...
WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?
SHE'S NOT PICKING UP...
RING RING RING
If I can just...
If I can just make it there...


SHE DID SAY SHE'D STAY AT HOME BECAUSE SHE KNEW BLAINE WAS ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH ANY DAY NOW
Don't hang up!
Please- don't hang up!
R
R
R
R
R
My vision is growing dim...
my body won't move...
Please!
R
R
R
R
God, please give me strength!
Please save my baby!

RATTLE
RING!
Eh?
NATALIE?!
NATALIE, ARE YOU THERE?!
NATALIE!
HELP ME...

VROOM
RPE721
NAT ALIE?
WHAT'S WRONG, NAT. LIE?!
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF!

Please
Please help my baby
No why
went on a trip with Mitch
France

OWW!
WW!
AH!!
SO YOU CAN GO
I'LL BE FINE I'LL GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY BABY
IF ONLY IT COULD BE BORN MORE EASILY!
UGGGH... THIS IS HORRIBLE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE ALMOST THERE DO YOUR BEST...
MICHELE SOMETHING'S HAPPENED HASN'T IT?
MOREOVER HOW IS NATALIE?
WELL IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL TAKE A BIT MORE TIME
ACCOUCHE
CLICK
HOW IS SHE?!
IT SEEMS SHE'S MISCARRIAGING
AND HE SAID HE WAS BRINGING HER OVER HERE
HMM
I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM ROBERT

WHERE WERE YOU?!
FRANCIS!
MICHELE... HOW IS ELAINE DOING?
YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST CONTACTED US!
YOU WEREN'T AT PELHAM'S-
HUH...?
ISN'T SHE HERE WITH YOU...?
WHERE'S NATALIE?
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
TAKE HER INTO SURGERY ROOM #2!
YES, DOCTOR!
HANG IN THERE, NATALIE!

Please
RATTLE-RATTLE
Save my baby
GET OUT OF THE WAY! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
I'M HER FIANCE! PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SLAM

WHY IS NATALIE
ROBERT, YOU KNOW SOME THING, DON'T YOU?! PLEASE TELL ME!
ANSWER ME!
WHO WERE YOU WITH UNTIL NOW?!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
WHO WERE YOU WITH UNTIL NOW?

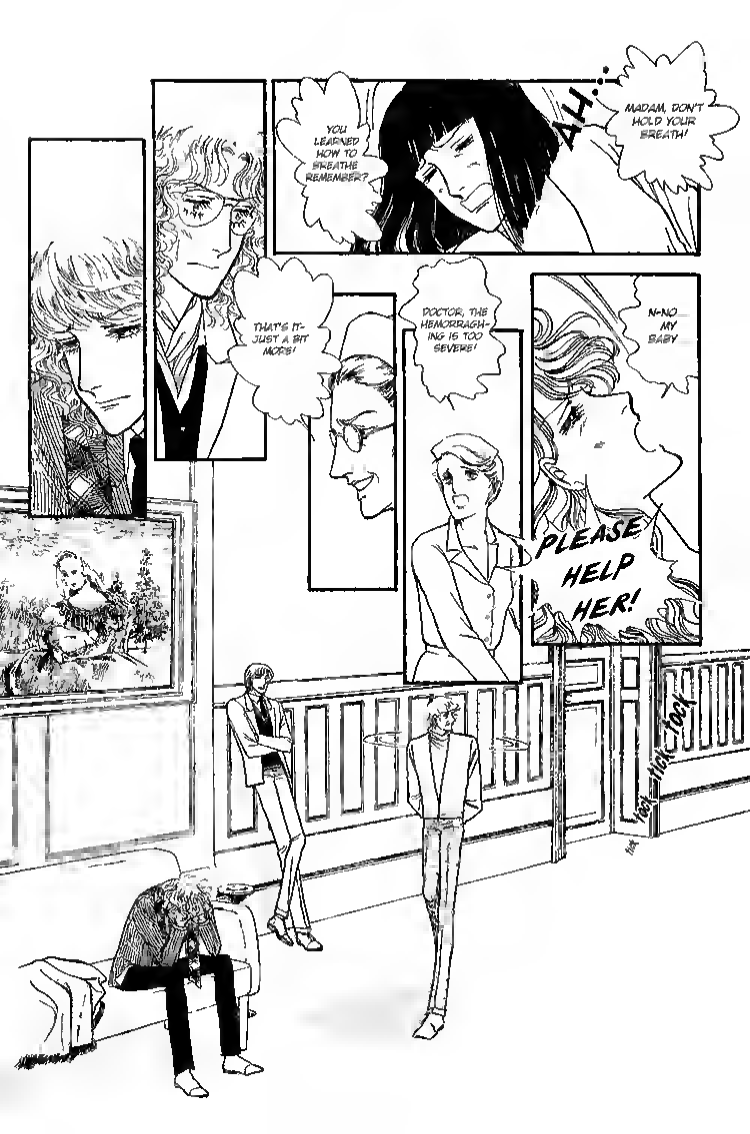
SMACK
I WAS IN BRITTANY WITH MILLFY
STOP IT!
NATALIE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS BECAUSE OF YOU!
HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO GO IN YOUR FOOLISHNESS UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF MAKING ONE WOMAN HAPPY- SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING PUTTING ON A GOOD FACE TO ANOTHER WOMAN?!

I DIDN'T LEAVE NATALIE IN YOUR CARE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN!
IT WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE HER HAPPY!
HERE'S SOME COFFEE
YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO CALM DOWN A BIT, HAVEN'T YOU?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL
BUT WHAT YOU DID BACK THERE- I FEEL SORRY FOR FRANCIS

I COULDN'T STAND IT
NATALIE WAS BEGGING IN HER DELIRIUM. TO PLEASE SAVE HER BABY.
I KNOW BUT THE BLOOD JUST RUSHED TO MY HEAD...
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU
FRANCIS IS THE ONE WHO'S SUFFERING THE MOST
IF SHE MISCARRIES...
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BABY, DON'T YOU?
WHY IS SHE ALWAYS THE ONE TO HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS?
EVERY TIME IT SEEMS AS IF THINGS ARE GOING IN A GOOD DIRECTION, EVERYTHING CRUMBLES SUDDENLY.
SHE LONGS FOR HAPPINESS SO MUCH...
SO WHY IS IT THAT IT ALWAYS PASSES HER BY?
TELL ME- WHY?

It's as Felhan and Robert said
If she miscarries...
If she ends up miscarrying...
Although I keep saying that the only one I love is Natalie,
my actions always end up hurting her
HAVE A SEAT
IF YOU END UP COLLAPSING AS WELL WHO'LL BE THERE TO TAKE CARE OF NATALIE?
THAT'S YOUR ROLE
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
THE ONE NATALIE NEEDS MORE THAN ANYONE RIGHT NOW IS YOU, FRANCIS
I'm always the cause for her suffering!
Although I only want to make her happy.
Why?!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT NATALIE'S...
THIS IS MY FAULT... VAUGHE...
INSTEAD YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON
THERE'S NO POINT IN SAYING THIS AND THAT ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED
IT'S AS VAUGHE SAYS FRANCIS
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW IS NOT TO PLACE BLAME ON WHO IS MOST AT FAULT, DON'T YOU AGREE?
IF YOU THINK THAT, THEN YOU NEED TO BE STRONG FOR HER.
I'LL GO AND DROP IN ON HER
IT SEEMS BLAINE'S STILL IN LABOR.
...HE ONLY SAID THE TRUTH...
ROBERT SAID HE'S SORRY FOR WHAT HE DID


A-H...!
MADAM, DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!
YOU LEARNED HOW TO BREATHE REMEMBER?
THAT'S IT- JUST A BIT MORE!
DOCTOR, THE HEMORRAGHING IS TOO SEVERE!
N-NO... MY BABY
PLEASE HELP HER!
TICK...TICK...TICK

WAHHHH!
It's born!
WE DID IT!
A PERFECTLY HEALTHY BABY GIRL!
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
THAT TOOK A WHILE SO I WAS WORRIED CONGRATULATIONS!
Surgery Room #2
HOW'S NATALIE?
THEY STILL HAVEN'T...
CLICK

IT WAS A BABY GIRL...
TO OUR REGRET SHE MISCARRIED.
She miscarried...
a baby girl...
THE MOTHER IS DOING FINE
SHE'S CURRENTLY SLEEPING FROM EFFECTS OF THE ANESTHESIA.
Uuuu...

Mr. What
Am I supposed to tell Natalia?
She was looking forward to the lilies so much...
WAHHHHH!
WAHHHHH!
WAHHHHH!
WAHHHHH!
WAHHHHH!

WAHHHH-
WAHHH-
OH
SO IT WAS A BABY GIRL?
SO HOW IS NATALIE DOING?
SHE'S SLEEPING
FRANCIS HASN'T LEFT HER SIDE
I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH HIM.
HE'S ABOUT READY TO COLLAPSE AT ANY MOMENT
WAHHH-
WAHH-

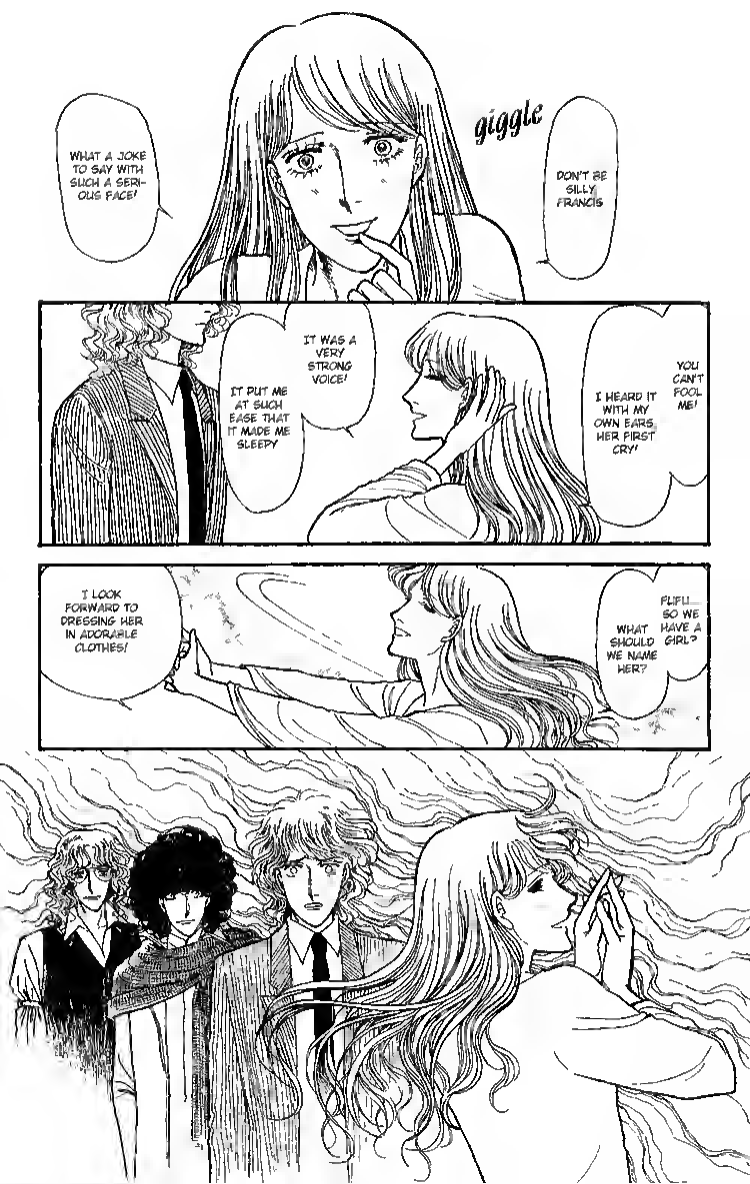
PELHAM
WHERE'S NATALIE?
SHE'S STILL SLEEPING
IT'S LONG SINCE PAST WHEN THE ANESTHESIA SHOULD HAVE WORN OFF.
BUT SHE'S CONTINUED TO BE IN A DEEP SLEEP.
UNCLE AND ROBERT WERE TIRED SO THEY'RE SLEEPING RIGHT NOW BUT FRANCIS REFUSES TO REST.
AT THIS RATE, HE'S GOING TO COLLAPSE TOO.

HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE HE GOT HERE
I'LL TAKE OVER FRANCIS
YOU BETTER GET SOME REST
TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR
I'M FINE

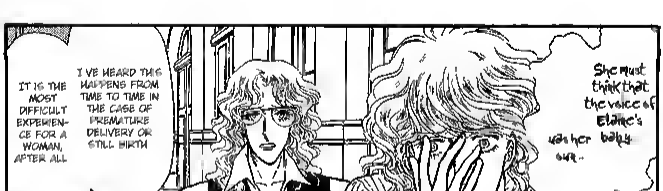
I FEEL WONDERFUL!
SO WHAT WAS IT? A BOY OR A GIRL?
TELL ME ALREADY!
NATALIE -
ARE HOW YOU FEELING?
IT... WAS A GIRL.
THE DOCTOR DID EVERYTHING HE COULD, BUT...
TELL ME
WHAT'S WRONG?

A GIRL!
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I WANTED A GIRL!
Eh?
I WANT TO HOLD HER IN MY ARMS!
I STILL CAN'T SEE HER YET?
AND WHAT COLOR IS HER HAIR?
AND HER EYES?
NATALIE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
DON'T TELL ME...
WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
WHAT IS IT...
MICHELE
SHOW ME MY BABY!
SHE WAS BORN PERFECTLY HEALTHY WASN'T SHE?!

NATALIE... YOU CAN'T GET UP!
SHOW ME MY BABY! WHY ARE YOU KEEPING HER FROM ME?!
NATALIE GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
I'M HER MOTHER! SO WHY CAN'T I SEE HER?!
IT'S MY BABY!
YOU
HAD A MISCARRIAGE
YOU MISCARRIED NATALIE!
HOW CAN YOU GIVE BIRTH TO A BABY WHEN YOU WERE ONLY FOUR MONTHS ALONG?!


WHAT A JOKE TO SAY WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE!
giggle
DON'T BE SILLY, FRANCIS
IT WAS A VERY STRONG VOICE!
IT PUT ME AT SUCH EASE THAT IT MADE ME SLEEPY
I HEARD IT WITH MY OWN EARS, HER FIRST CRY!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
I LOOK FORWARD TO DRESSING HER IN ADORABLE CLOTHES!
WHAT SHOULD WE NAME HER?
FUFU... SO WE HAVE A GIRL?

NATA
MICHELE COULD YOU ASK THEM FOR ME TOO?
I'D LIKE TO SEE HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
SURE
YOU'RE RIGHT
ALL RIGHT THEN I'LL STAY RESTED UNTIL THEN
IN RETURN THOUGH PLEASE ASK THEM THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ALL RIGHT?
I.M SORRY NATALIE BUT YOUR BABY'S IN AN INCUBATOR
SHE'S PREMATURE?
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME OUT SOON ENOUGH
UNTIL THEN, YOU NEED TO REST
YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE...
NATALIE THINKS SHE'S GIVEN BIRTH TO A BABY
AHH!
SHE WAS ONLY 17 WEEKS
SO HOW COULD SHE HAVE GOTTEN SUCH AN ABSURD IDEA...


IT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE FOR A WOMAN, AFTER ALL
I'VE HEARD THIS HAPPENS FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE CASE OF PREMATURE DELIVERY OR STILL BIRTH
She must think that the voice of Elaine's was her baby's cry...

SHE'LL GET BETTER THOUGH, WON'T SHE, MICHELE?!
THAT'S TEMPORARY, ISN'T IT?!
PREVIOUSLY SHE COLLAPSED BUT WHEN THE CASE BECOMES SEVERE THEY BECOME DELUSIONAL LIKE THAT...
BEFORE THEY'RE HURT, THEY RAISE THEIR GUARDS UP AND THEY TRY TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY

FRANCIS!
I ..... CAN'T SAY FOR SURE...
EVEN IF SHE DOES RECOVER FROM THIS, IT'LL TAKE TIME...

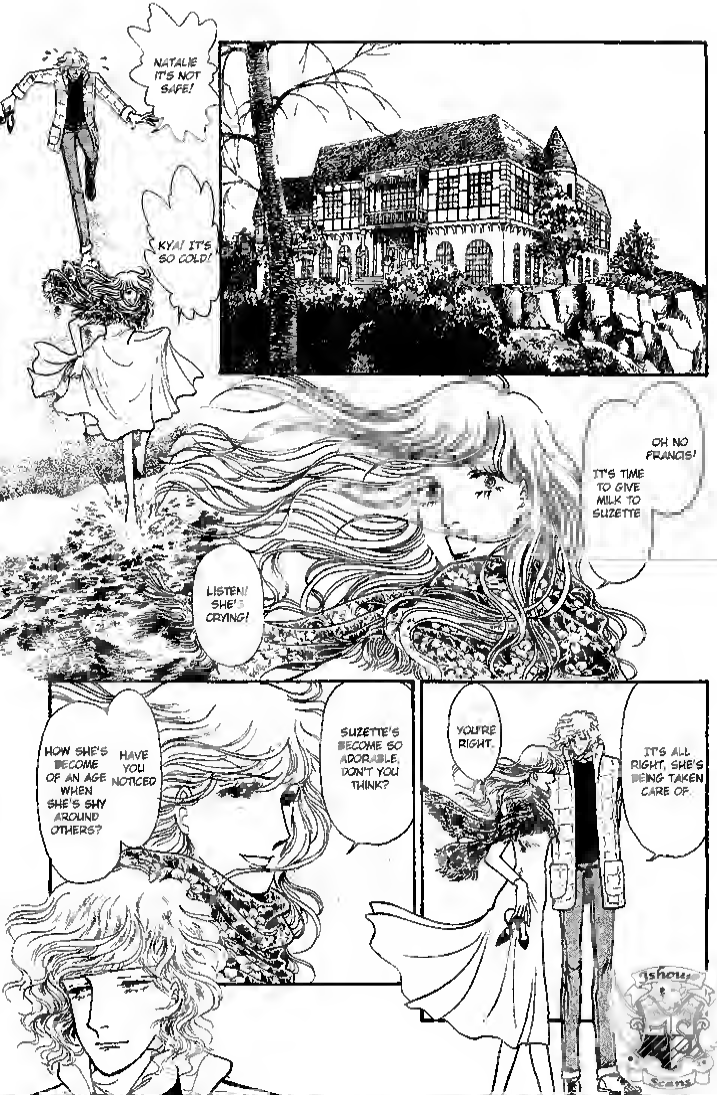
This can't be happening...
this is so horrible...
How could this
Please... help her
Someone tell me that this is all a dream...

Some-
one-
tell me
that this
is dream!
NOOO!
THAT'S A
LIE!
OF THIS
IS A LIE!
TELL ME
THAT THIS
IS A DREAM!

JShoujo Scans

Suna no Shiro

Translator
Oceansportrait
Proofreader
CreateMagic
Cleaner
Vally
4 **Typesetter** 32
Vally
QCer
Monmedel


NATALIE IT'S NOT SAFE!
KYA! IT'S SO COLD!
OH NO FRANCIS! IT'S TIME TO GIVE MILK TO SUZETTE
LISTEN! SHE'S CRYING!
HOW SHE'S BECOME OF AN AGE WHEN SHE'S SHY AROUND OTHERS?
HAVE YOU NOTICED
SUZETTE'S BECOME SO ADORABLE, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SHE'S BEING TAKEN CARE OF.

SHE'S GOTTEN ONLY WORSE.
SHE'S FINALLY EVEN NAMED THE CHILD
SHE'S LIVING AS IF THE BABY REALLY DOES EXIST
SHOULD WE... ADMIT HER TO A HOSPITAL?
SHE'S BECOMING MORE AND MORE INCOHERENT
AS FOR FRANCIS, HE LISTENS TO WHAT SHE SAYS WITH A SMILE.
WITH A SMILE CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
FRANCIS SAYS HE WON'T ALLOW IT.
HE SAID THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SHE'LL GET BETTER EVEN IF SHE DOES. AND HE SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE HER ALONE.
IN FACT, HE'S SAYING HE WANTS THEM TO LIVE TOGETHER IN THAT HOUSE
HE'S PLANNING ON CARRYING THIS BURDEN BY HIMSELF

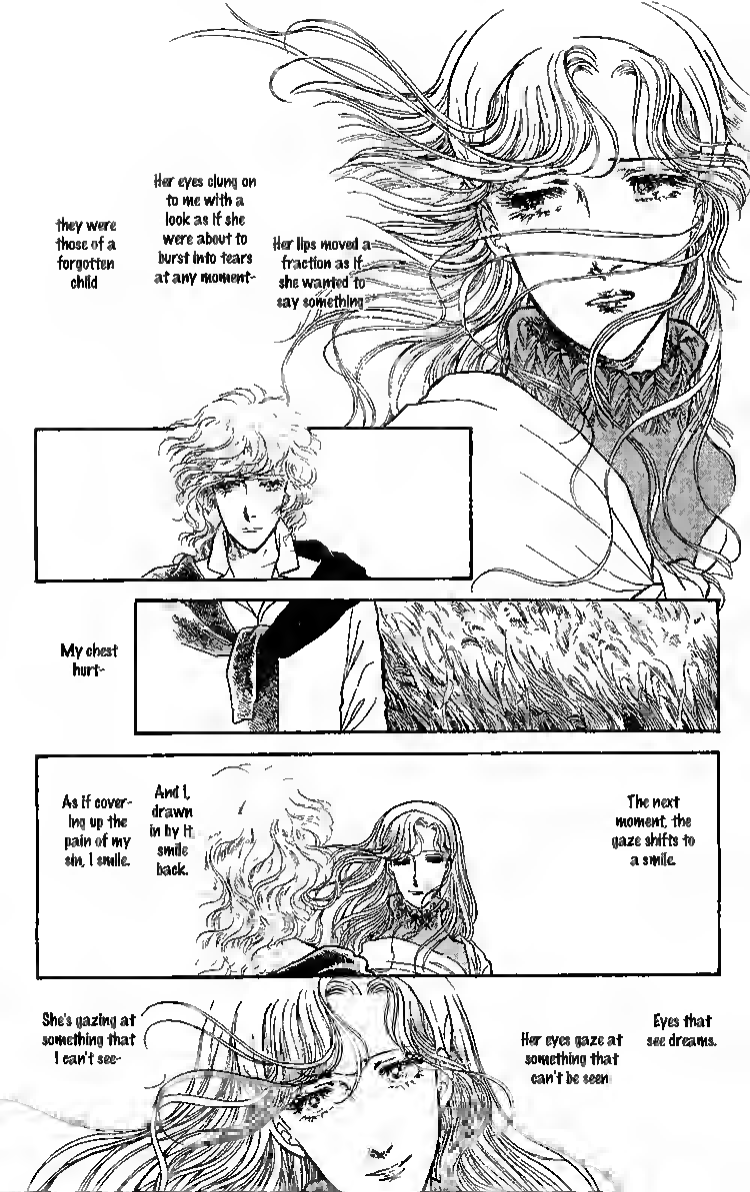
WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING, MICHELE?!
ARE YOU SAYING HE SHOULD SUFFER BY HIMSELF?!
LET THEM TRY LIVING BY THEMSELVES
WHY DON'T WE
I DON'T WANT HIM TO SUFFER MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS
WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN
THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE SHOCK OF HER MISCARRIAGE
AND THE THOUGHT THAT FRANCIS HAD BETRAYED HER
HER DISTRUST OF FRANCIS' LOVE FOR HER.
FOR NATALIE, WHO WAS BEING TROUBLED BY THE THINGS HAPPENING WITH MILLY.
THE BABY WAS THE TRUMP CARD OF LOVE
AS LONG AS THE BABY'S THERE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
THE BABY WILL TIE HER AND FRANCIS TOGETHER
BUT THAT BABY DIED

If Natalie can place her faith in Francis' love once more,
Natalie will get better
If she can think that Francis will never part from her
THE CHANCES ARE IF THEY DO SO HIGHER
SO FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, YOU'RE SAYING THEY SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER JUST THE TWO OF THEM?

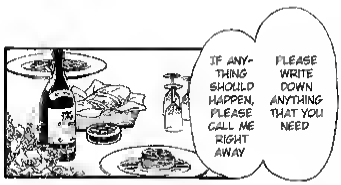
On an afternoon in early spring-

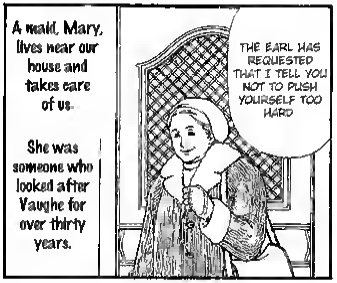
we returned to our nostalgic home amidst the light flurry of snow dancing in the wind.

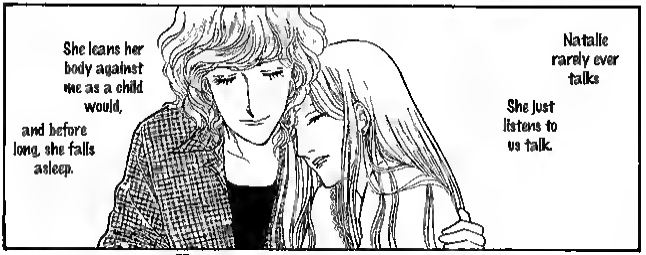
Spring passed, and so did summer-
Amidst the passing seasons, Natalie was always with a smile.
The child-like smile of Natalie's-
When she turned around, her eyes that clung to me captured my full attention.

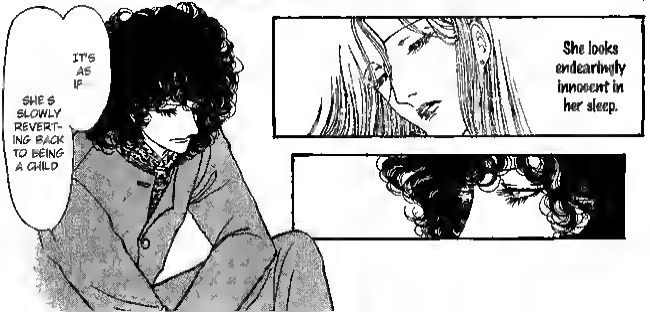

they were those of a forgotten child
Her eyes clung on to me with a look as if she were about to burst into tears at any moment-
Her lips moved a fraction as if she wanted to say something
My chest hurt-
As if covering up the pain of my sin, I smile.
And I, drawn in by it, smile back.
The next moment, the gaze shifts to a smile.
She's gazing at something that I can't see-
Her eyes gaze at something that can't be seen
Eyes that see dreams.

Vaughe and Michele are always making excuses to drop in to see how Natalie is doing too
When the weekend rolls around, Fulhan comes to visit us.


IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN, PLEASE CALL ME RIGHT AWAY
PLEASE WRITE DOWN ANYTHING THAT YOU NEED


A maid, Mary, lives near our house and takes care of us.
She was someone who looked after Vaughe for over thirty years.
THE EARL HAS REQUESTED THAT I TELL YOU NOT TO PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD

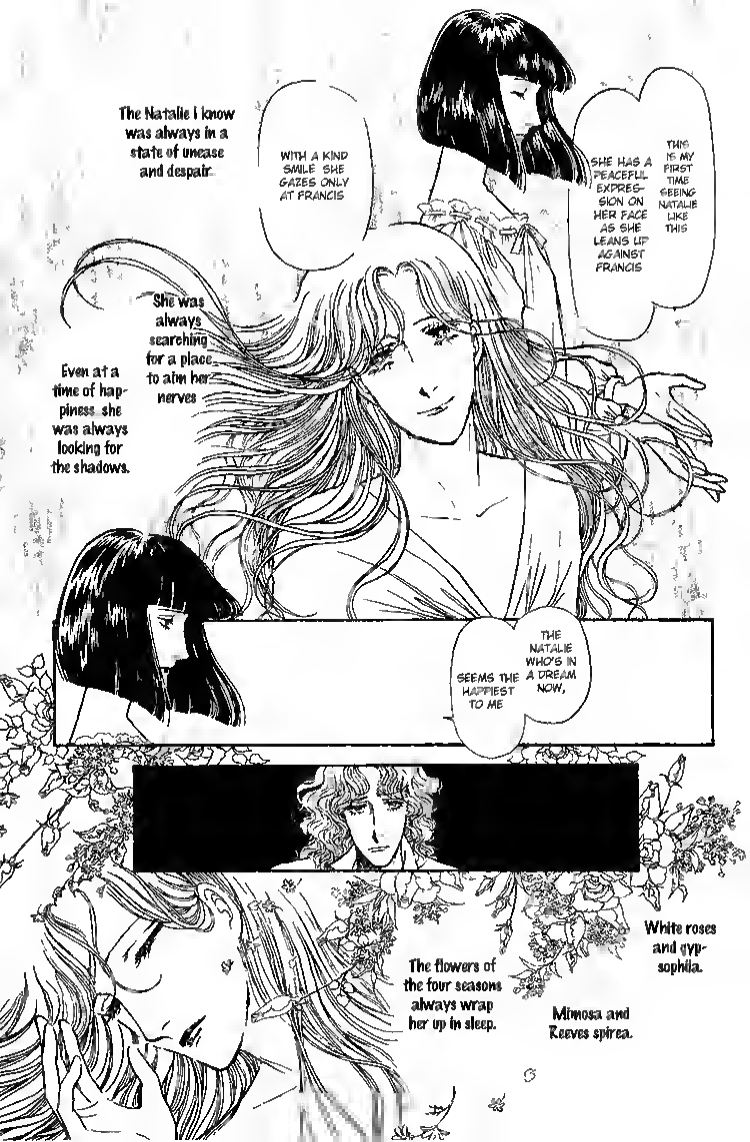

She leans her body against me as a child would,
and before long, she falls asleep.
Natalie rarely ever talks
She just listens to us talk.

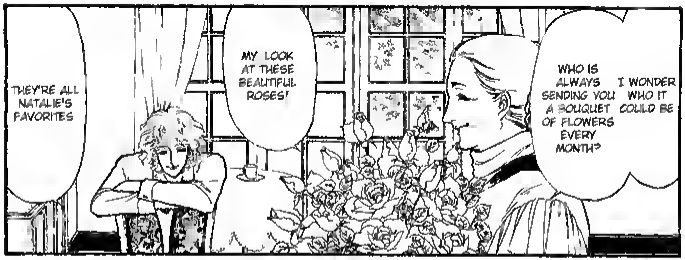

IT'S AS IF SHE'S SLOWLY REVERTING BACK TO BEING A CHILD
She looks endearingly innocent in her sleep.

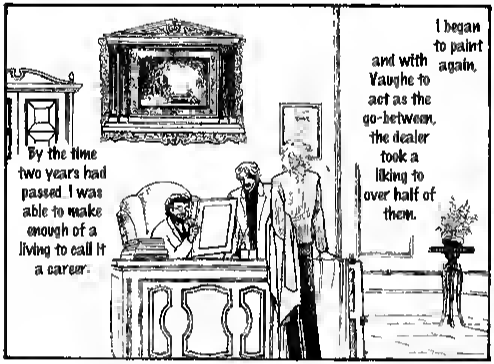
IS THERE ANY-THING THAT I CAN DO?
ISN'T THIS HARD FOR YOU?
IS THIS HOW YOU'RE PLAN-NING ON SPEND-ING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE-NESTLED AGAINST EACH OTHER?
IT'S NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THIS
YOU'VE DONE PLENTY AS IT IS
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I WANTED TO LIVE MY LIFE FOR HER
NOW I AM ABLE TO WATCH OVER HER LIKE THIS
ALTHOUGH I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HER BACK THEN-
I DON'T FEEL AS SAD AS EVERYONE THINKS
I LIVE EVERY DAY ONLY THINKING OF HER,
AND I SPEND MY ENTIRE DAY ONLY FOR HER
ALTHOUGH I DO RELY ON EVERYONE'S KINDNESS...

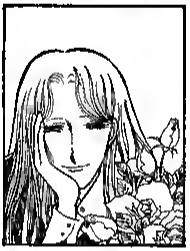
Francis said that he might even be happy-

It's almost been a year now...
EDITH'S FINALLY FALLEN SLEEP
YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ON THE PHONE WITH VAUGHE FOR AN AWFULLY LONG TIME. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT NATALIE...
WE WERE SAYING HOW IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO ADMIT HER TO A HOSPITAL IF IT LOOKS LIKE SHE MIGHT GET BETTER THAT WAY
IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE REALLY
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES
IF THERE'S A COURSE OF ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN, HE'D LIKE TO TAKE THEM ALL
I KNOW IT'S WRONG TO THINK THIS WAY
BUT NATALIE LOOKS HAPPY TO ME


The Natalie I know was always in a state of unease and despair.
WITH A KIND SMILE SHE GAZES ONLY AT FRANCIS
SHE HAS A PEACEFUL EXPRESSION ON HER FACE AS SHE LEANS UP AGAINST FRANCIS
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING NATALIE LIKE THIS
She was always searching for a place to aim her nerves
Even at a time of happiness she was always looking for the shadows.
THE NATALIE WHO'S IN A DREAM NOW,
SEEMS THE HAPPIEST TO ME
White roses and gypsophilia.
The flowers of the four seasons always wrap her up in sleep.
Mimosa and Reeves spirea.


THEY'RE ALL NATALIE'S FAVORITES
MY, LOOK AT THESE BEAUTIFUL ROSES!
WHO IS ALWAYS SENDING YOU A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS EVERY MONTH?
I WONDER WHO IT COULD BE

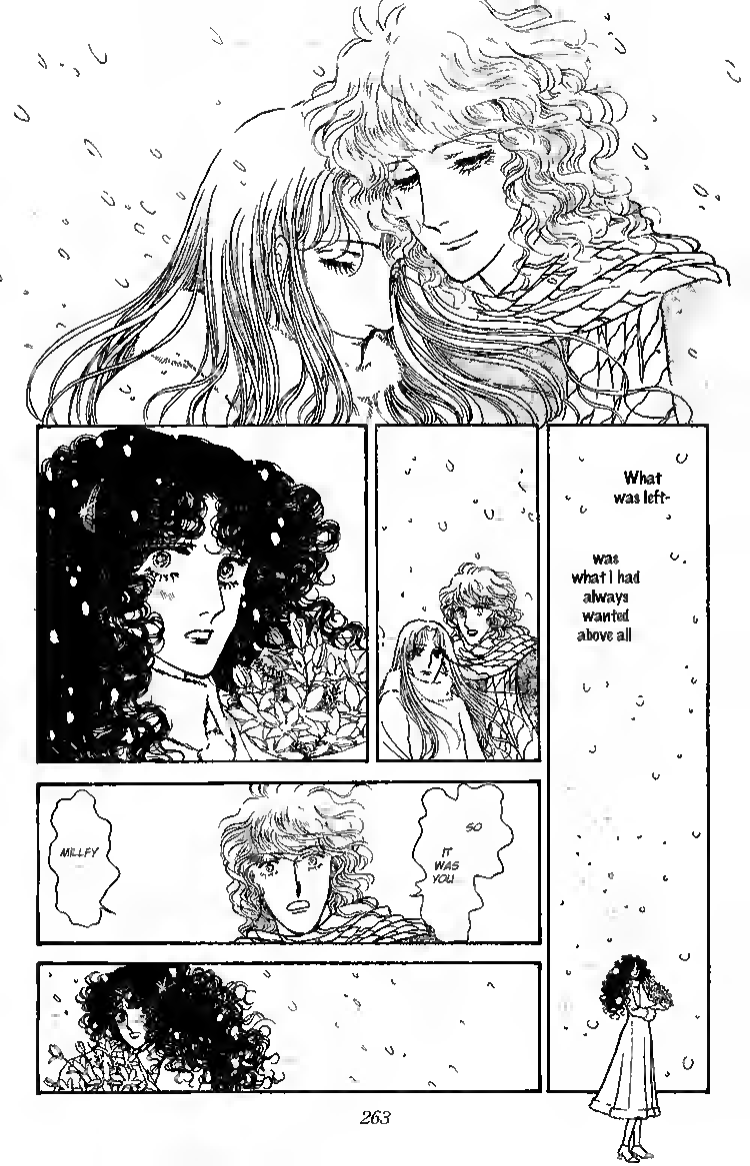

By the time two years had passed I was able to make enough of a living to call it a career.
and with Vaughe to act as the go-between, the dealer took a liking to over half of them.
I began to paint again.

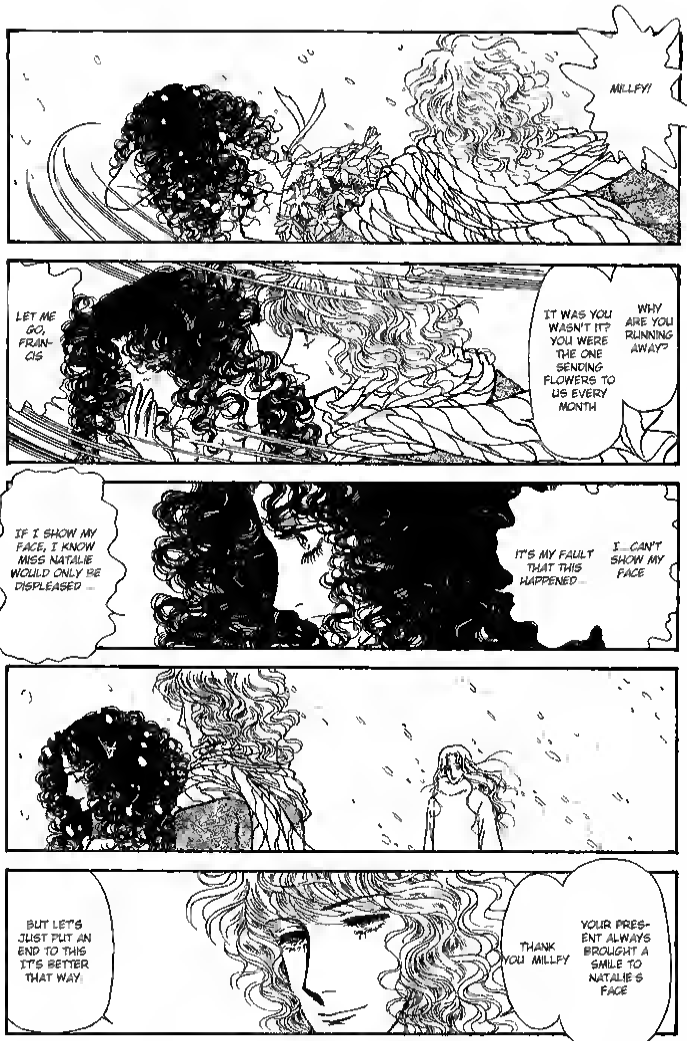


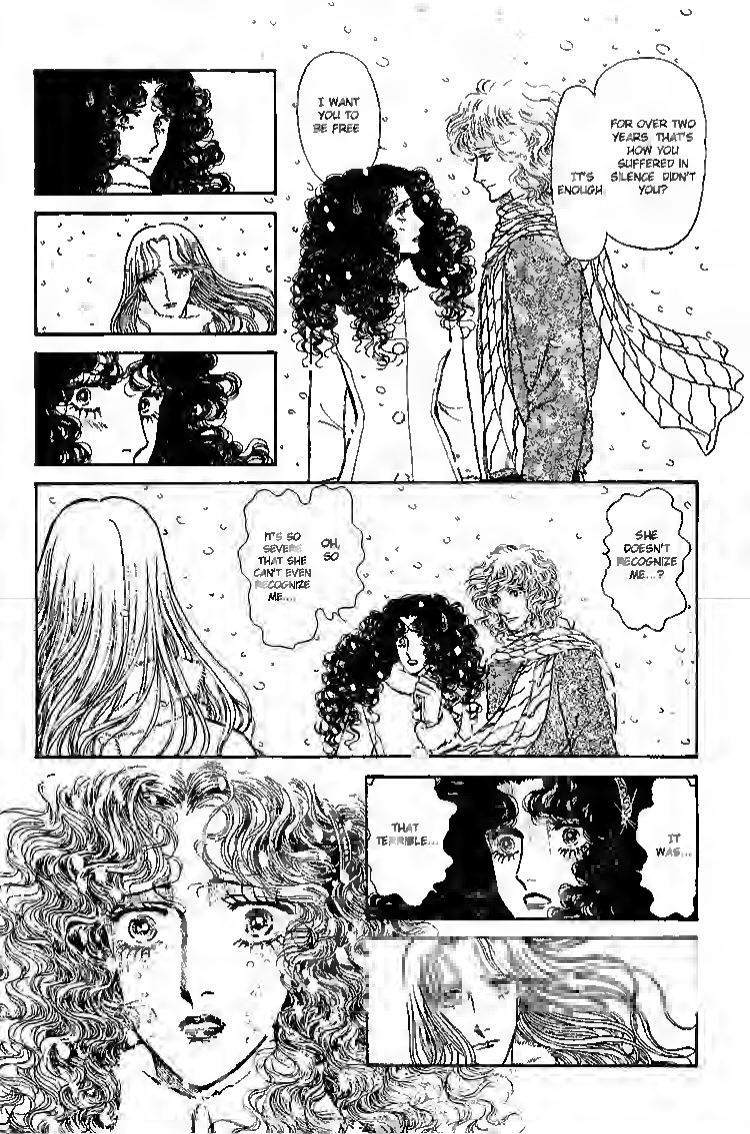
The bouquet of flowers without a sender's name
always made Natalie happy.

The odd peacefulness continued-

we had enough between us to be able to bury all that
and we never talked of our dreams for the future-
Although we never talked of love like lovers,


What was left-
was what I had always wanted above all
MILLFY
SO IT WAS YOU!


MILLFY!
LET ME GO, FRANCIS
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
IT WAS YOU WASN'T IT? YOU WERE THE ONE SENDING FLOWERS TO US EVERY MONTH
IF I SHOW MY FACE, I KNOW MISS NATALIE WOULD ONLY BE DISPLEASED ...
IT'S MY FAULT THAT THIS HAPPENED ...
I...CAN'T SHOW MY FACE
BUT LET'S JUST PUT AN END TO THIS IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.
THANK YOU MILLFY
YOUR PRESENT ALWAYS BROUGHT A SMILE TO NATALIE'S FACE

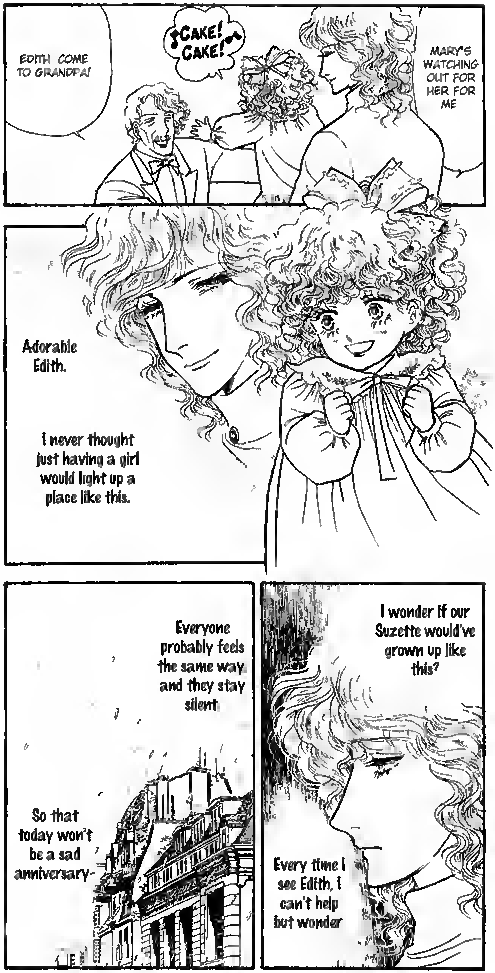

I WANT YOU TO BE FREE
IT'S ENOUGH
FOR OVER TWO YEARS THAT'S HOW YOU SUFFERED IN SILENCE DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S SO SEVERE THAT SHE CAN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME...
OH, SO
SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME...?
THAT TERRIBLE...
IT WAS...

I DIDN'T KNOW
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO CRY.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE UNHAPPY.
WE'RE LIVING PEACEFULLY-NATALIE AND I.
WE LIVE AND LOVE-LOVE THEIR ONE-ANOTHER.
I took away your happiness!
If only I never existed, this wouldn't have happened!
This is all my fault
There's no way anyone can!
I can never forgive myself!

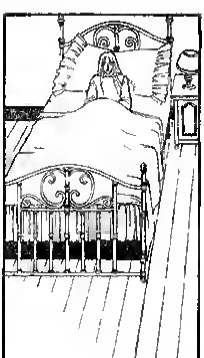
AH

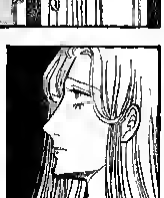
BUT I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SEE HER
SHE WAS STILL DRAG-GING HER LEG A BIT
OH
SO IT WAS MILLFY

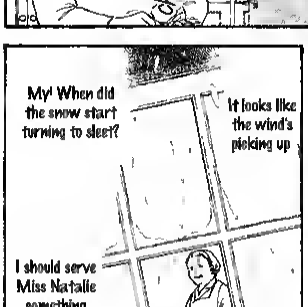
IT'S ONLY A MINOR CASE THOUGH
I HEARD NATALIE'S SICK
THIS ITH A KWAYKE!
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU COME OUT HERE FOR EDITH'S BIRTHDAY


EDITH COME TO GRANDPA!
CAKE! CAKE!
MARY'S WATCHING OUT FOR HER FOR ME
Adorable Edith.
I never thought just having a girl would light up a place like this.
Everyone probably feels the same way and they stay silent
So that today won't be a sad anniversary-
I wonder if our Suzette would've grown up like this?
Every time I see Edith, I can't help but wonder

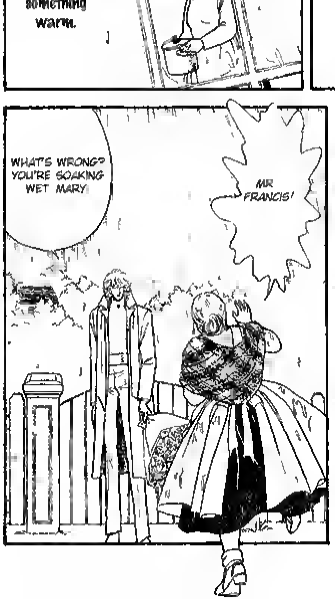
chop chop chop

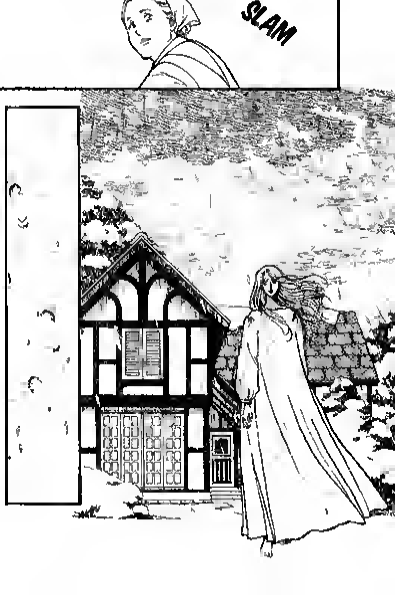





My! When did the snow start turning to sleet?
It looks like the wind's picking up
I should serve Miss Natalie something warm.

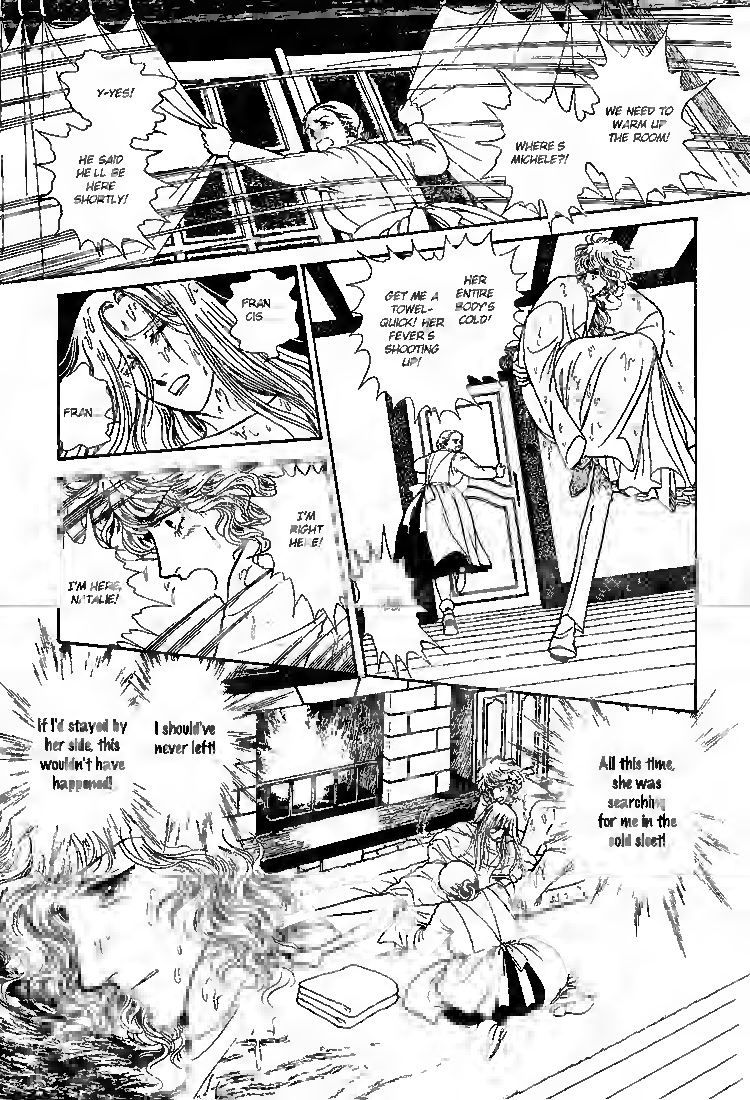
SLAM


WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SOAKING WET MARY!
MR FRANCIS!

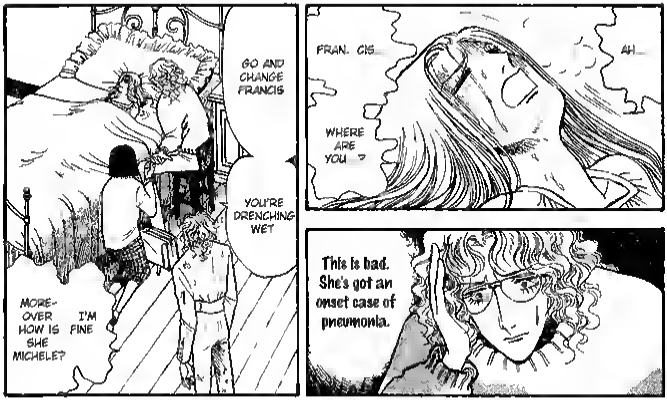


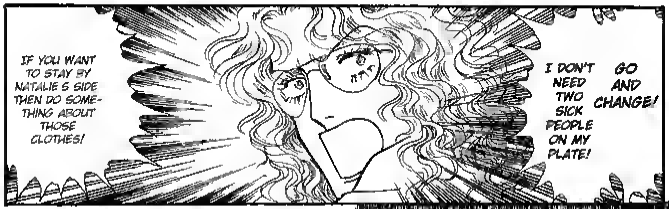
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! SHE'S ILL!
WHEN I WENT TO SEE HOW SHE WAS DOING JUST NOW, I COULDN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE!
MISS NATALIE'S MISSING!
WHAT?!
NOT ALIE?!
She must've gone to look for me!
She probably thought if she went there, she'd be able to find me.
SHE MUST BE IN THE BACK...
I ASKED THE NEIGHBORS TO HELP WITH THE SEARCH
MR. FRANCIS DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE COULD BE?

NAT... LIE...
NATALIE!


Y-YES!
HE SAID HE'LL BE HERE SHORTLY!
WHERE'S MICHELE?!
WE NEED TO WARM UP THE ROOM!
FRAN CIS
FRAN...
GET ME A TOWEL- QUICK! HER FEVER'S SHOOTING UP!
HER ENTIRE BODY'S COLD!
I'M RIGHT HE...E!
I'M HERE, NATALIE!
If I'd stayed by her side, this wouldn't have happened!
I should've never left!
All this time, she was searching for me in the cold sleet!

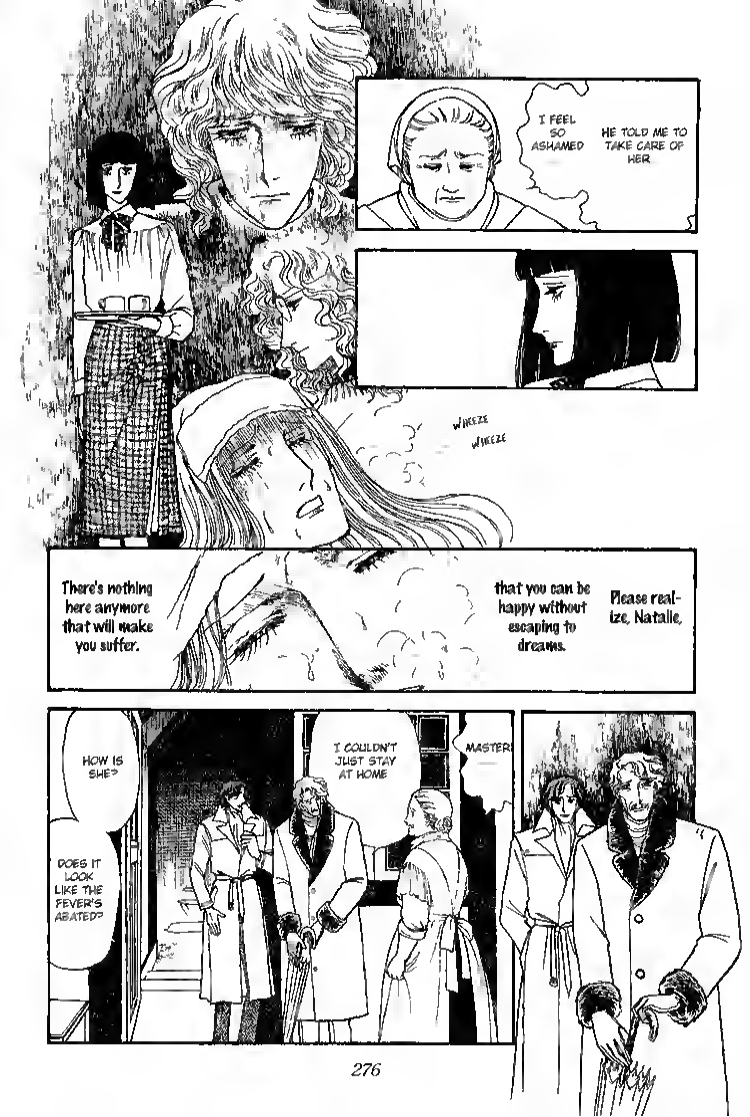
MICHELE, YOUR BRIEF-CASE!
MR. FRANCIS IS WITH HER RIGHT NOW ON THE SECOND FLOOR!
HE'S WIPING DOWN HER BODY AND WARMING HER.
THAT'S GREAT! DOES SHE HAVE A FEVER?
IT'S OVER 40 DEGREES CELSIUS!
MICHELE!
PLEASE HELP NATALIE!
SHE HAS A HIGH FEVER! SHE'S BEEN TALKING DELIR-IOUSLY FOR SOME TIME!
PLEASE! SAVE HER!
PLEASE! SAVE HER!

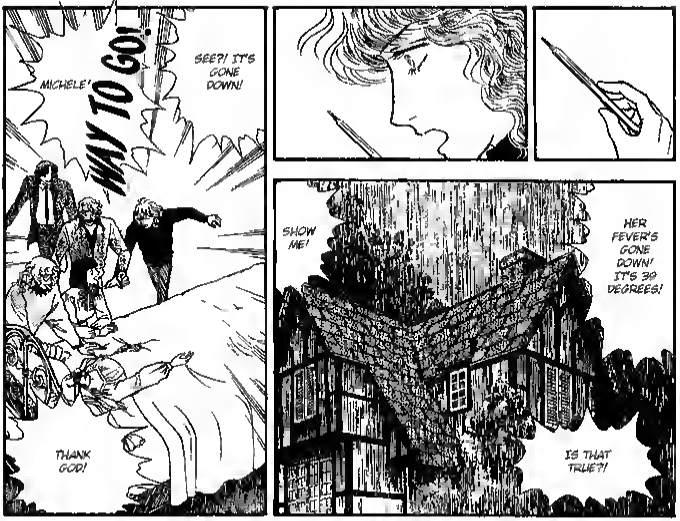

GO AND CHANGE FRANCIS
YOU'RE DRENCHING WET
I'M FINE
MORE-OVER HOW IS SHE MICHELE?
FRAN. CIS...
AH...
WHERE ARE YOU...?
This is bad. She's got an onset case of pneumonia.


IF YOU WANT TO STAY BY NATALIE'S SIDE THEN DO SOME-THING ABOUT THOSE CLOTHES!
I DON'T NEED TWO SICK PEOPLE ON MY PLATE!
GO AND CHANGE!

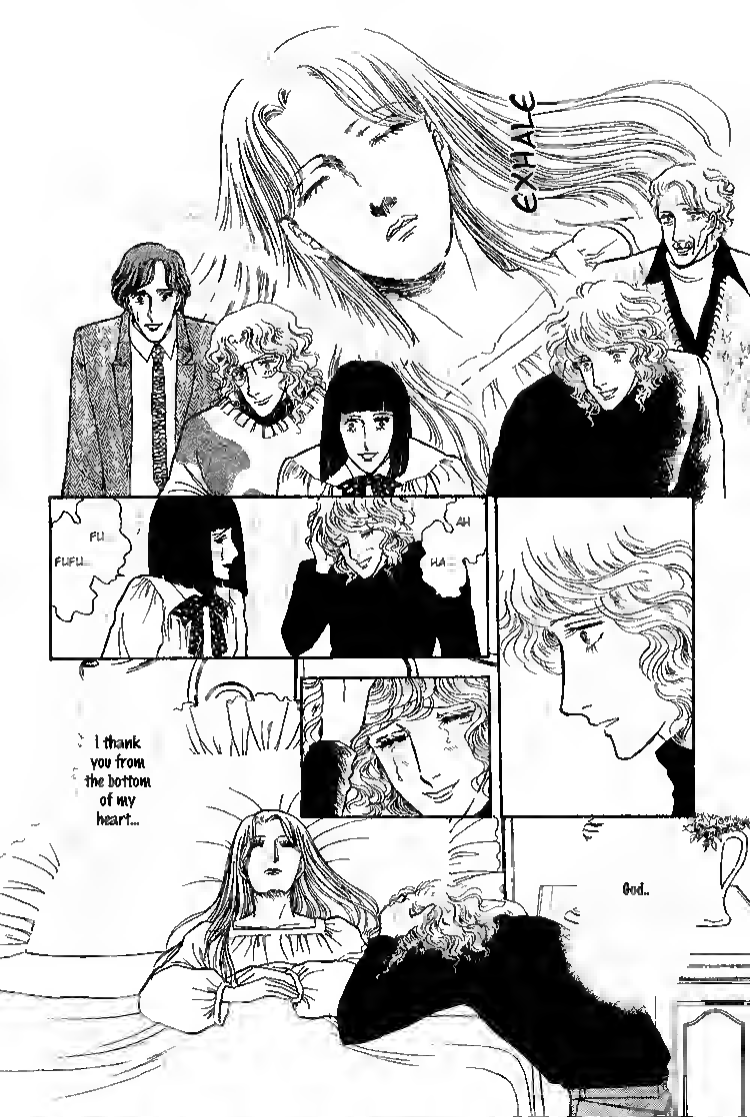
-click-

EVEN IF I WERE TO GO HOME, I'D ONLY BE WORRIED ABOUT HER.
MARY, I'LL TAKE OVER


I FEEL SO ASHAMED
HE TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF HER
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
There's nothing here anymore that will make you suffer.
that you can be happy without escaping to dreams.
Please realize, Natalie,
HOW IS SHE?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE THE FEVER'S ABATED?
I COULDN'T JUST STAY AT HOME
MASTER

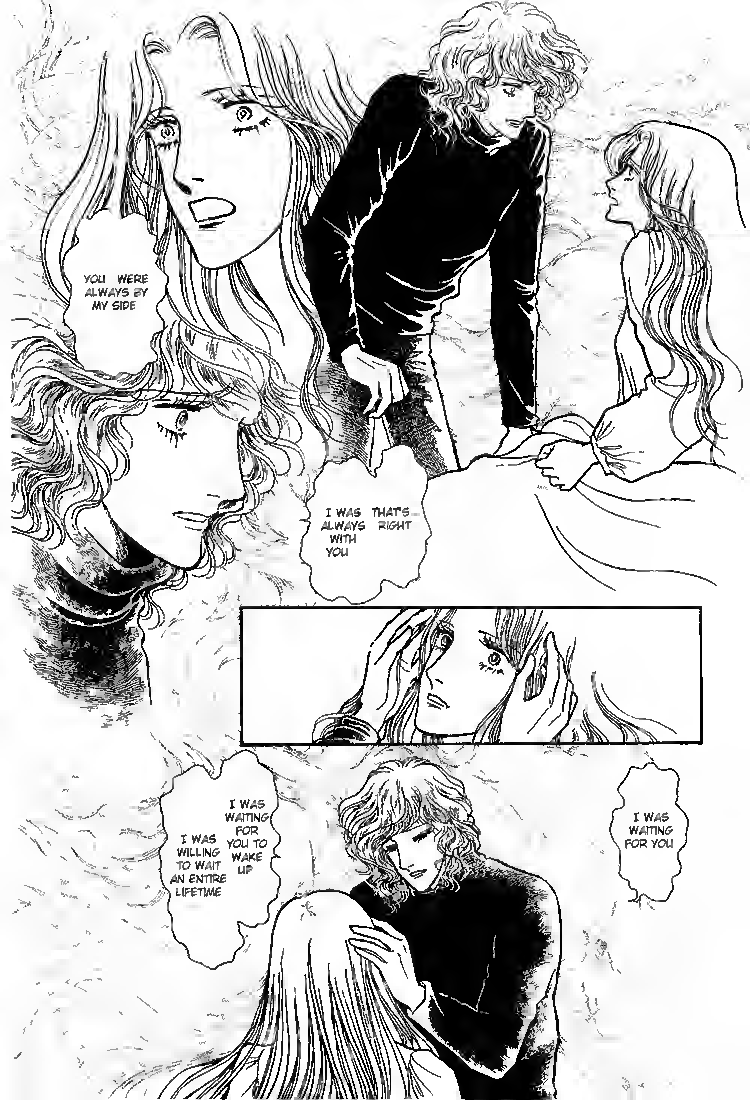

MICHELE!
SEE?! IT'S GONE DOWN!
WAY TO GO!
THANK GOD!
SHOW ME!
HER FEVER'S GONE DOWN! IT'S 39 DEGREES!
IS THAT TRUE?!

ENJOY!
Support the mangaka by buying the original copy!


EXHALE
FU...
FUFU...
AH
HA...
I thank you from the bottom of my heart...
God..

I WAS REALLY WORRIED THERE FOR A WHILE!
WELL THEN I GUESS IT'S TIME WE MADE OUR EXIT
I WAS SO NERVOUS THIS WHOLE TIME THAT I'M EXHAUSTED!
IT MUST'VE BEEN PAINFUL WASN'T IT? IT'S BECAUSE YOU DID SOMETHING SO ABSURD
EVERY-THING'S FINE ARE YOU GOING TO AWAKE? BE JUST
Hmm this needs to be taken after meals
WELL... WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL GOING OUT INTO THE SLEET WITH BARE FEET?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
NOT ONLY THAT BUT YOU WERE WEARING YOUR NIGHT CLOTHES
MY... HEAD FEELS HEAVY
THAT'S NOT A SUR-PRISE! YOU HAD A FEVER OVER 40 DEGREES

Eh?!
IT WASN'T A DREAM.
SO—
I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING A LONG LONG DREAM
BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE


YOU WERE ALWAYS BY MY SIDE
I WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU
THAT'S RIGHT
I WAS WILLING TO WAIT AN ENTIRE LIFETIME
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO WAKE UP
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU

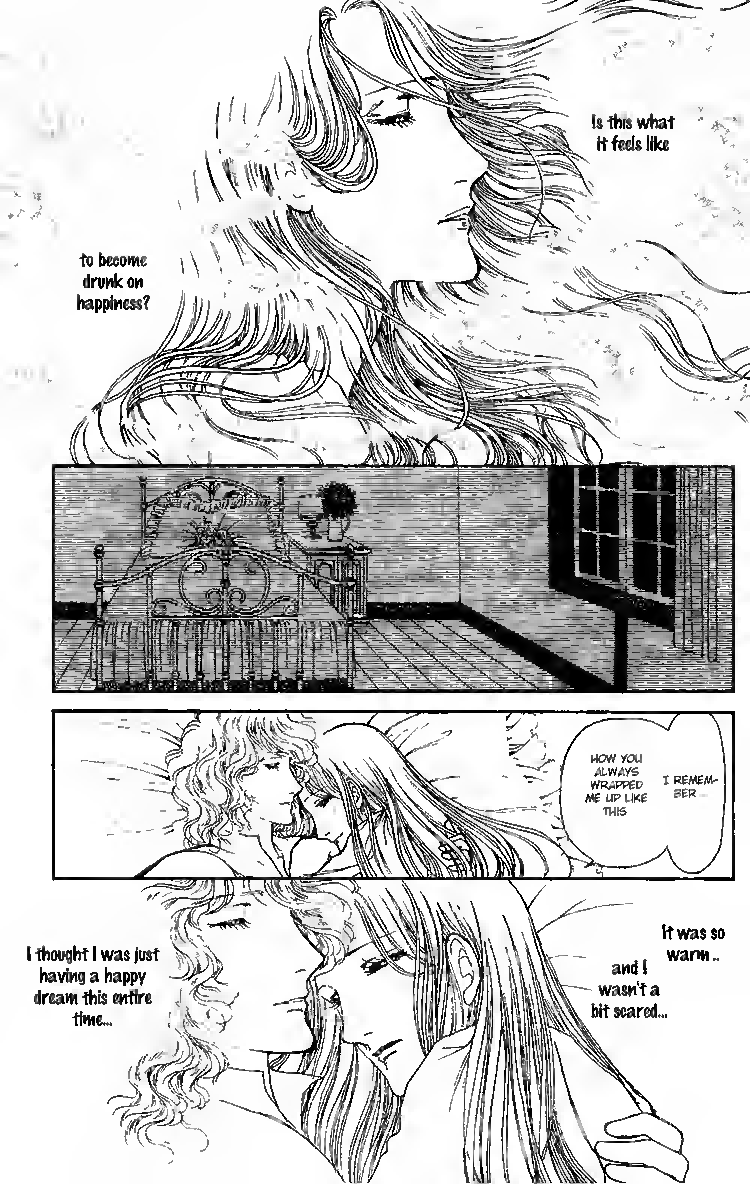
FRANCIS
FRAN
CIS

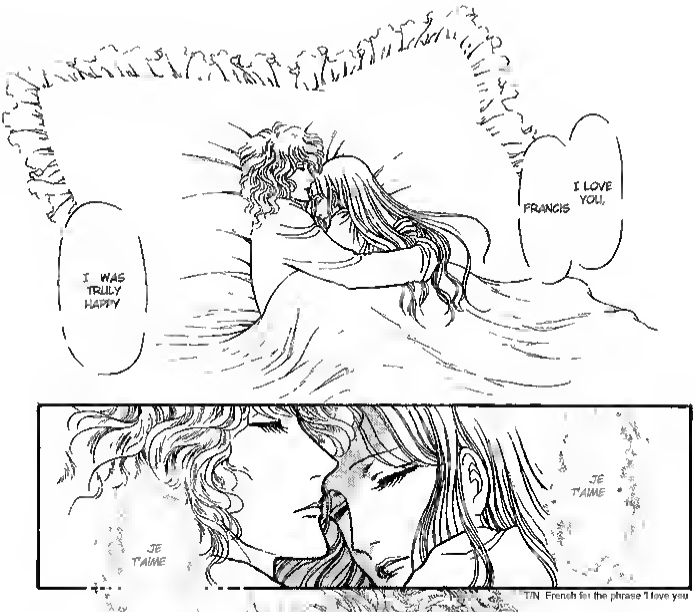
SHE REMEMBERS EVERYONE!
NATALIE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS!
WAIT, EVERYONE!
BLINKS
WE'RE LEAVING NOW!
MAKE SURE TO GIVE HER THAT MEDICINE!
SHE'S RECOVERED!
SHE'S ALL BETTER!
VAUGHE! AND ROBERT!
ELAINE
MICHELE!
NATALIE!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?!

NATALIE LET US SEE YOUR FACE!
OH, YOU'VE WORRIED US SO!
IT'S TRUE! YOU RE'LLY REMEMBER!
KYA!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
To think I'd be able to hear her smile like this again...
This is the first time in a long time...
YES
SHE'S RECOVERED
YES THAT'S RIGHT

Well then, I guess I'll take a bottle of wine over there tomorrow so that I can see his foppish smile.
IS THAT RIGHT
WELL, THAT'S GREAT NEWS.
WELL THEN, SHE STILL HAS A BIT OF A FEVER.
SO WE BETTER RETURN HER TO FRANCIS FOR TODAY
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE CAN TALK ANY DAY
I WAS SO JOYFUL THAT I FORGOT ABOUT THE TIME!
REST UP
YOU STILL NEED TO GET THAT FLU OF YOURS CURED UP
THANK YOU EVERYONE
THANK YOU SO SO MUCH

THEY'RE ALL TRULY KIND PEOPLE
YES
EVERY-ONE WAS SO HAPPY LIKE IT WAS THEM THAT THIS WAS HAP-PENING TO!
NEXT TIME YOU WAKE UP I'M SURE YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER.
YOU MUST BE TIRED YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST
IT'S A STRANGE FEELING...
MY BODY FEELS LIGHT AND I FEEL AS IF I'M STILL IN A DREAM.
IT'S AS IF ALL THAT PAIN HAD NEVER HAPPENED!


Is this what it feels like
to become drunk on happiness?
I REMEMBER
HOW YOU ALWAYS WRAPPED ME UP LIKE THIS
It was so warm..
and I wasn't a bit scared...
I thought I was just having a happy dream this entire time...

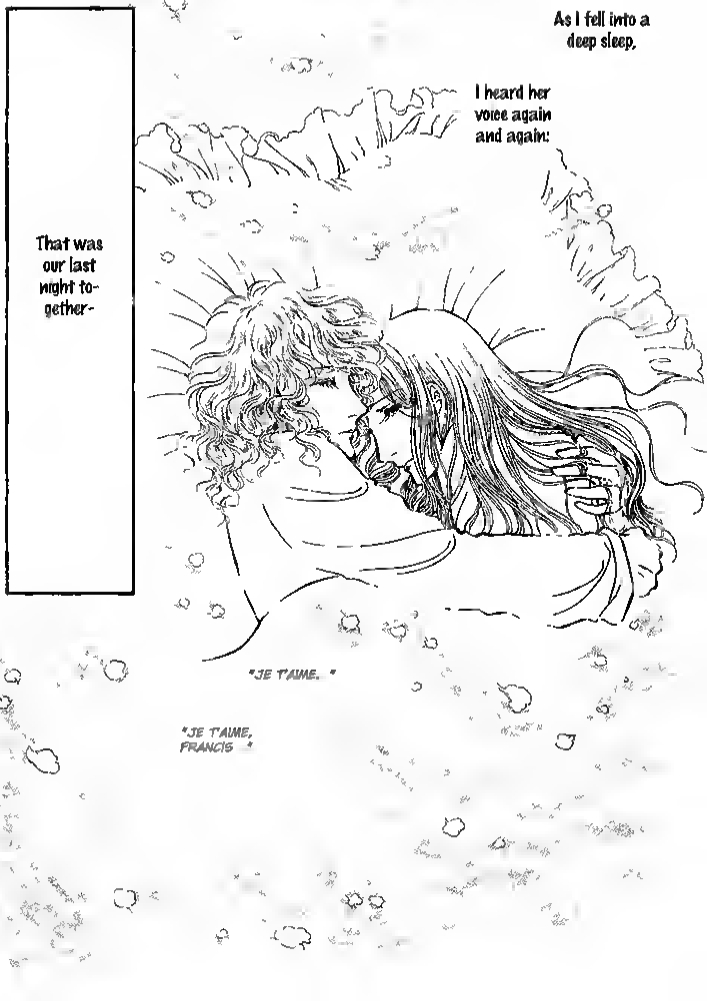


T/N: French for the phrase "I love you"

As I listened to Natalie whisper in my ear,

I was beckoned into a deep sleep.

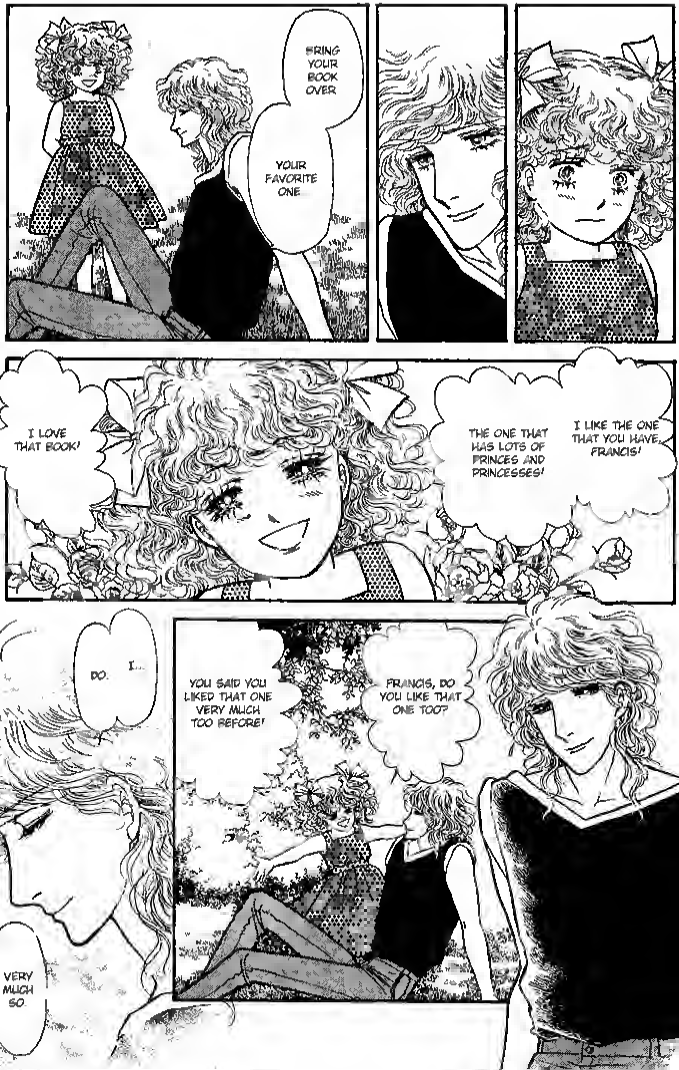
As my consciousness faded, all I could hear was Natalie's listless and kind voice.


That was our last night together-
As I fell into a deep sleep,
I heard her voice again and again:
"JE T'AIME."
"JE T'AIME, FRANCIS."

FRANCIS

YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D READ ME A BOOK REMEMBER?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SLEEPING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
DID SOMEONE... BULLY YOU?
I... WAS HAVING A DREAM...

WAS IT A SCARY DREAM?
NO
ONE THAT MADE ME FEEL FAR AWAY...
IT WAS A HAPPY ONE
I'M SORRY FOR WAKING YOU...
DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN?
I'D LIKE TO...
BUT I CAN'T ANYMORE


BRING YOUR BOOK OVER
YOUR FAVORITE ONE
I LOVE THAT BOOK!
THE ONE THAT HAS LOTS OF PRINCES AND PRINCESSES!
I LIKE THE ONE THAT YOU HAVE, FRANCIS!
DO. I...
YOU SAID YOU LIKED THAT ONE VERY MUCH TOO BEFORE!
FRANCIS, DO YOU LIKE THAT ONE TOO?
VERY MUCH SO.

Natalie-
my one and only lover who passed away at the peak of happiness.
Even now-
I can hear your voice whispering in my ear.

MAYUMI Y	KYOKO A	SATOSHI Y
KUMI Y	HIROKO K	KEI S
MAKOTO I	MIMA Y	
AKEMI M	AKIKO N	
HIKARU Y	MAKO	
YUKI H	NOZOMI T	
YAGI T	ASAGIRI Y	担当
BORAN	RINKO S	SAJI
SATORU M	KAZUE M	KURAMOCHI
TATSUYA Y	SHIORI S	SHIMADA

Suna no Shiro volume 04 - END-

Afterword by the Author
Ichijou Yukari

"Whoaaa... What high horse was I on?" That was my first thought when I read "Suna no Shiro" for the first time in a while.
Hmmm, I see. that was awfully serious. It moves me a bit... so this is what the me in my 20's was thinking.
I know this is a strange thing to say about your own work, but this was a pretty philsophical story.
I was thinking of a very serious topic like how humans should live, what is right and how one should think and act to overcome such difficulties...
It's exhausting- not only for the protagonist but for the writer too...I wouldn't want to live like this.
This'll shave years off of your life. It's no wonder she snapped. She should grab a cup of wine- there, there, and ease the tension from her shoulders.
Come on now, take a deep breath. Slowly...slowly...it's all right. Everything's going to be OK. Life'll turn out the way it will, there's nothing you can do about it, so you should be more...open and ready for it. If you worry too much, then you're just going to end up tiring yourself out and it'll leave you no elbow room.

If you don't get a decent amount of sleep, it'll be bad for your skin. See? If you always have your eyebrows gathered together like that, it's going to stay that way! You're not young anymore, so you need to take more care of yourself and your appearance. You're beautiful, after all! It'd be such a waste. Geez, Natalie-chan

But well, when it comes right down to it, with all the stuff that happened to you one after another, it's not that I can't understand your sorrow, but..

one of these days, you're going to go bald! It makes me want to say this to her.

In my opinion, she's definitely a blood type A- not only that, but AA. The epileptic tendencies- the serious and unbending personality- there's no question she's an A! I'm sure Francis must be an A too. So it's a love between two blood type As, huh?

Well, that's fine and all, but the more they understand each other, the more they hold back, and in the end, they have a tendency of running into walls.

Yeah, anyhow..talk about taking a walk down memory lane. I'm really surprised that a person with a personality like mine was able to come up with a story like this. Talk about being a pro, huh?

To be honest, I don't really like women with personalities like Natalie's. I don't like them, but I kind of wanted to try writing a story with a character like that. I wanted to see how far I could take a story that has a protagonist who is of a type I stay away from.

The female characters I usually drew until then were usually very prideful and strong with a defiant attitudes. Those kind of characters were really easy to write about. I love bold women like that, so it feels really good drawing characters like that.

But you see, since I'm supposed to be a professional, it wouldn't do if I couldn't draw various types of female characters. That's how I came to decide to draw the type that I hated the most-

the most whiny, indecisive, girly-girl I could come up with.

Personally, I hate daytime soap operas, but even though it's easy to look down on them, they're pretty easy to get hooked on, don't you think?

Ugggh..that's enough! This is REALLY getting on my nerves...arrgghh! Why does it have to be like that? Geez! Get your act together! Oh geez..what're you going to do now? You're only digging a grave for yourself...

Daytime soap operas are like that- they get on your nerves but you just can't hold yourself back from watching them.

That's it! It might be fun to write something like that at least once. Okay then! If I'm going to make the effort to write something like this, I'm going to make it the most extreme one possible~

Soap operas...soap operas..while I was thinking that, I ran smack dab into what is most important in soap operas.

If you're wondering what that is, it is an all-out obstacle!

A simple obstacle that will tear the two apart. In the past, it would've been stuff like war, differences in social status, or an incurable disease. At any rate, soap operas need something like that to base a story off of.

And the more the obstacles, the situation becomes more serious, and the protagonist is driven into a corner. So, the viewers end up heeing and hawwing and it makes them wonder "What's next?" "What'll happen after this"?

For "Gone with the Wind" and "Sunflower," it was war. For "Love Story," it was an illness. In "Roman Holiday," it was differences in social status. Homosexuality can be a pretty sizeable obstacle and although I liked that angle personally-

well, putting that aside- I decided to make the first obstacle differences in social status and the second obstacle a favorite of mine- differences in age.

In the course of the story, there's war, and the ultimate weapon became illness- it turned out to be a heaping bowl full of obstacles.

I kept on throwing one obstacle after another, and Natalie was helpless but to go through them all. It makes me want to apologize to the protagonist, it really does.

The personality I decided for Natalie was a selfishness that is characteristic of rich, well brought up daughters, and an all enduring sweetness. Although she does have aspirations, when faced with a showdown, she has a weakness that doesn't allow her to be defiant. The key point in her personality is her tenacity and weakness.

"Who cares! I don't care what happens!"-
If she had a personality like that, the story would've been
over way too soon. Since Francis died
and there's no point in me pining away forever for someone
who's already dead, I guess it can't be helped. I'm still
young, so I should just start a new life for myself...If that
had happened, then that wouldn't have made a good story.
If I were the main character of this series, I don't think
the story would've lasted one volume.
You probably never guessed that the writer was thinking
of stuff like this as she was writing this series, but at any
rate, I didn't have an easy time writing this story. Natalie
has a personality that's completely different from mine,
so as I was writing the story I started getting pissed off. I
know it's strange for a mangaka to make up a pretext for a
quarrel with a character who she made up in the first place!
Since there was no getting around it though, I decided
to at least make the characters around her to my liking.
Felhan, Michele, Jeff, Howard- they're all to my liking.
Mr. Lanberre-I want a father like that. And although she
didn't show up much in the story,
the slightly ill-natured former fiancée of Mr. Lanberre's is
just the kind of older woman I want to become one day.
And I'd also love to have a friend like Elaine! Having a
friend like that must be really great!
She's like a big sister or mother who never puts on airs.
You're really blessed if you have someone like that in your
life who is always watching out for you.

Well, anyhow, I'm not sure whether you'd call this a critique or impression of my own work, but I was thinking this as I was slowly writing this about a work that I wrote almost twenty years ago, but it makes me want to pat myself on my back saying I tried pretty hard.

As for the art- it's distorted and embarrassing. I do think it's terrible- the legs are too thin and oh! If it's possible, I'd like to redraw the whole thing, but I guess it can't be helped. I guess that's part of its charm.

It's been almost thirty years since my debut work!

-I am thankful to those who have always been with me-